





## In G2 Europe today: Baroness Jay isn't. So just who is a feminist these days?

+ Clive Barker on horror and Hollywood + Mark Lawson + The saint of free software in OnLine, plus IT jobs

### Sketch

## Going over the top in words war



Simon Hoggart

FOR the first time in memory, the Commons observed the two-minute silence for Remembrance Day. (It only recently began its weekly morning sessions, and yesterday's was the first to be held on November 11.)

Appropriately, John Speller, a defence minister, was speaking. Mr Speller has seen much active service in the West Midlands Labour Party, in which people are always going over the top.

He finished at 10 seconds past 11am, and an almost packed chamber rose. It was an impressive sight. Most morning debates are attended by three people: the MP speaking, the minister who has to reply, and the person waiting to go next.

Even the Prime Minister turned up. This was amazing. Normally, Mr Blair stays well clear of the House except when obliged. He prefers to lead his troops from the Downing Street chateau, away from the enemy lines.

So we were treated to seeing hundreds of MPs cram into the House in order to say nothing at all. It was a unique sight, not least for the ferocious poppy rivalry.

The implication is that the bigger your bloom, the more patriotic you are. So some MPs wear an ordinary poppy. Some wear the style with added plastic foliage. Others stagger under the weight of blooms so large they could receive BSkyB. Julie Kirkbride (C, Bromsgrove) upstaged everyone this week with two gigantic poppies on her breast, so she looked like a corpse in a Tarantino film. Some hours later the two-

minute silence was followed by the half hour of hubbub. Throughout Prime Minister's Questions, we heard a bellowing from behind the Speaker's chair. It turned out to be John Hayes, the Tory member for South Holland.

Mr Hayes has a portly mien and a smug smile. At the very end of the session the Speaker turned on him in rage, and warned him that if he kept up the noise, she would throw him out. Mr Blair said, with equal smugness: "He should go and talk to Michael Portillo," someone else who is currently keeping up a barrage of unwanted sound.

Two questions remained: why did Betty leave it so long to reprove Mr Hayes, and why does the MP for South Holland sit in the British parliament in the first place?

Mr Hayes had made his principal attack on the Prime Minister over the "closed list" for the European elections. This is the system by which voters may choose their party, but not the candidates. Finding suitably tame Euro MPs is left up to those kindly folk at party HQ.

Mr Blair praised the method for being plain and simple. (Of course it is. Democracy is always easy if you let other people make the choices for you.)

Mr Hayes said that it gave power to party stooges. He pointed out that a candidate in the West Midlands, according to Labour officials, "knew about the area because he had acted in the Rocky Horror Show at Birmingham Rep."

Mr Blair said snuffily that if he needed advice on party management, he would drop the Tory leader a line — and indeed, it is faintly absurd for any Tory to moan about a lack of party democracy.

Hopefully it will all end in tears, for the stooges, that is. Rhodri Morgan as first minister in Wales, Alex Salmond in Scotland and Ken Livingstone as mayor of London. "Those would be the people's choices, which is why they'll move heaven and earth to stop us getting them."

### Review

## Sweet returns in film life lottery

Simon Hattenstone

Waking Ned  
London Film Festival

THE British film-goer has never had it so good. We're soaking in lottery money, basking in creativity, shimmying in the reflected glory of the New British Movie. So they say.

But there is a downside. Rather than encouraging innovation, the cash influx has resulted in a depressing conservatism. So over the past couple of years we have had numerous turgid literary adaptations, lashings of Oirishry, cod-Tarantino and any number of films aspiring to be the new Four Weddings or the new Full Monty rather than simply new.

Waking Ned, which opened the British section of the London Film Festival last night, falls into the Irish category. Actually, it is one of the best

films in the section — sweet, funny, occasionally even tender.

But Kirk Jones's first feature is much too benign for its own good.

It is the first British movie about the lottery. To be accurate, it is the first Irish movie about the lottery to head up the British section of the LFF. Two dodgy-dealing old boys hear that one of the locals has won millions.

They determine to find out who, and ease their way into the inheritance.

It's an old-fashioned gold-diggers' tale made new for the nineties: a saccharine reimagining of Durrenmatt's *The Visit*.

The two con men eventually discover the lotto winner — lying dead after a heart attack, the winning numbers in his hand.

The ensuing chaos allows for some lovely set-pieces and light farce that seeps with nostalgia for the Ealing years.

Saddam receives final warning from United Nations as Clinton and Blair pave the way for air attacks

## Countdown to strike on Iraq

Iran Black in London and Julian Borge in Washington

AMERICAN and British air strikes against Iraq could take place within days after the United Nations yesterday withdrew its weapons inspectors and Bill Clinton and Tony Blair warned Saddam Hussein to back down immediately.

Kofi Annan, the United Nations secretary-general, issued a final appeal to the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, to resume co-operation with the UN as indications of impending military action multiplied.

On a day that began with the dramatic announcement that all personnel from the UN special commission, Uns-

com, and most other UN staff were leaving Iraq, the US and Britain both warned national- ists about the dangers of travelling in the Middle East.

Richard Butler, the UNSCOM chairman, said he had withdrawn 100 inspectors on the recommendation of the US. Other diplomats suggested the UN was irritated by what amounted to an American ultimatum.

Russia repeated its strong opposition to the use of force and demanded to know why UNSCOM had been pulled out, seeing the withdrawal, probably correctly, as the prelude to air strikes.

"Any use of force would not only render the situation in the Gulf more difficult, but there would be far-reaching consequences across the

Middle East," said the foreign minister, Igor Ivanov.

President Clinton warned: "We must be prepared to act if he [Saddam] does not." And Mr Blair told MPs: "We will act if he does not immediately come back into compliance."

Within an hour of Mr Clinton's speech the Pentagon announced that William Cohen, the defence secretary, had signed orders sending 129 warplanes, Patriot anti-missile batteries, and over 3,000 ground troops to bolster US military strength in the Gulf as the countdown began to a punitive onslaught.

In Baghdad President Saddam chaired a cabinet meeting to discuss the "precautionary measures" ministries should take.

Iraq has insisted it will not

resume co-operation with weapons inspections until the UN backs Mr Butler and produces a timetable for the lifting of sanctions. The UN says sanctions will not be lifted until UNSCOM testifies to the Security Council that all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction are accounted for.

In the Arab world, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said there was "not one single Arab country" that supports the use of force against Iraq. But one Arab ambassador in London said: "This time it is serious. Unless the Iraqis back down there will be military action soon."

Diplomats predicted that the US and Britain, with the token support of a few other European countries, would launch military action, insisting that no further security council backing was required.

No deadline has been given to Iraq, but Washington and London both want to avoid a protracted diplomatic campaign to win support for attacks. Foreign Office sources said visits planned by British ministers to the Middle East next week were now under review.

Mr Annan's appeal, made before cutting short a visit to Morocco to return to New York, was described as "the last shot in the locker".

The US aircraft and troop reinforcements are not expected to be fully deployed until late next week, and the naval reinforcements currently steaming towards the Middle East will not all reach

the Gulf until November 28. But US officials have repeatedly stressed that a strike could take place before all the reinforcements are in place.

Attacks would almost certainly mean an end to seven years of UNSCOM monitoring and inspections, though Britain says that without it Iraq could produce chemical and biological weapons in weeks, a long-range missile in a year and a nuclear weapon in five years.

UNSCOM has withdrawn from Iraq before, but yesterday's pullout comes against a background of mounting concern that it has outlived its usefulness and serves simply to allow Saddam to choose when he creates a crisis.

Iraq crisis, page 7

## UN eye for sore site

Stuart Miller

THEY do not shimmer with awe-inspiring splendour, they are not an enduring symbol of ancient civilisation and they cannot be seen from outer space. But five gasometers in north London are vying for membership of an exclusive club which includes the Taj Mahal, the pyramids and the Great Wall of China.

If campaigners have their way, the gasometers, and the rest of the area around King's Cross and St Pancras stations, will be elevated from notorious trouble spot to international gem as a United Nations World Heritage Site.

The Victorian Society says the area, including both stations, Regent's Canal, the gasometers and a host of other buildings — has a reputation for deprivation, poverty and crime which belies its true status as the most complete example of Britain's pioneering industrial past.

Appalled by the area's absence from a shortlist of 32 outstanding British sites to go before the UN, the society has written to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, urging him to change his mind. It faces an uphill struggle — King's Cross was not even considered for a long draft list of potential nominees.

"World Heritage Sites have been traditionally about the beautiful places in the world,



The area around the King's Cross gasometers forms the most complete example of our industrial past, says the Victorian Society PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARQUES

but we were astounded that the King's Cross area was overlooked," said William Filmer-Sankey, the society's director. "The urban industrial landscape which survives around there really epitomises the way the UK and London set the pace for the rest of the world last century."

The makers of television period dramas have already

realised the area's potential, but few others — either residents or visitors, for whom the grimy landscape is their first taste of the capital after stepping off the train — are aware of the wealth of history which surrounds them.

The gasometers are an extraordinary feat of 19th century engineering. Built between 1861 and 1887, three of

them are already Grade Two listed structures. The station buildings themselves are superb examples of the architecture of the period.

Then there are the lesser-known treasures, such as the houses to the north of the canal which were erected for the burgeoning urban working class and were among the first signs of a growing appre-

ciation that the workforce had to be happy and well housed. The German Gymnasium, round the corner from St Pancras, was probably Britain's first public gym.

"More than any other site in the country, the King's Cross area shows us how the society we live in today was formed in the past," said Mr Filmer-Sankey.

There are 17 World Heritage Sites in Britain, including Bath, Edinburgh, Hadrian's Wall and the Giant's Causeway. As well as landscapes such as the Lake District and Flow Country of Sutherland, the existing shortlist includes industrial sites such as the Forth Rail Bridge and Brunel's London to Bristol railway line.

## Backlash forces Sun editor to promise to stop outing gays

Nick Hopkins

THE Sun announced a remarkable U-turn in its attitude towards homosexuals yesterday by declaring it would not out gay men and women just for the sake of exposing them.

David Yelland, the editor, said his tabloid was "no longer in the business of destroying closet gays' lives... unless there is a major public interest reason to do so". He also revealed he had sacked columnist Matthew Parris, who outed Peter Man-

derson during a Newsnight programme a fortnight ago.

Although Mr Yelland did not go into details, it seems the policy change was ordered following the furore over the Sun's front page editorial on Monday which asked whether the country was being run by a "gay mafia".

The piece came a day after the Sun's sister paper, the News of the World, had revealed that Nick Brown, the agriculture minister, was gay.

The Sun article, which was approved by Mr Yelland, was

condemned as homophobic, and appears to have caused a huge row at News International, which owns the Sun and News of the World.

"There were complaints about it from readers and senior executives," said a source. "It would not be unrealistic to assume Rupert Murdoch was involved. The feeling was that the Sun had gone too far."

The pressure rose on Tuesday when Downing Street took a dim view of the Sun's follow up front page, which claimed: "Blair backs the Sun over gays".

Fearing both a political and readers' backlash, News International decided to issue a statement from Mr Yelland to clarify the Sun's position.

It read: "From now on the Sun will not out homosexuals unless there is a major public interest reason to do so. We will continue to be in the vanguard of this debate — and all debates — but we will not invade the privacy of gay people by outing them."

"We will continue to be controversial and brilliantly innovative, but the Sun is no longer in the business of destroying closet gays' lives by

'exposing' them as homosexuals."

"We hope eventually that all gay people will feel free to come out, thus ensuring that charges that there is a 'gay mafia' become irrelevant."

Mr Parris, though not involved in either of the controversial front-page stories, was telephoned by Mr Yelland yesterday and told his Saturday column "was not working".

However, Mr Parris said he believed the statement and his dismissal "were not unrelated" and that he was sad to lose the column.

Mr Parris suggested the Sun's new liberalism might crumble the next time the House of Commons considered lowering the age of consent for gays.

"Then MPs' private lives will be seen as a matter of public interest."

Mr Mandelson was apparently "as surprised as anyone" that Mr Parris had been dropped by the Sun. An aide said: "There has been absolutely no contact with the Sun over this."

Letters, page 8; Mark Lawson, G2, page 7

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Queen and Chirac lead ceremony to mark 80th anniversary of the Armistice, as Britain and Germany experience contrasting reactions



The Queen, President Mary McAleese of Ireland and Belgium's King Albert at a service in Belgium PHOTOGRAPH: LOUISA BULLER

## Tributes paid to 2 million dead

Jon Henley in Paris

IN A joint ceremony likely to be the last of its kind, the Queen and President Jacques Chirac of France yesterday laid wreaths at the tomb of the unknown soldier beneath the Arc de Triomphe, paying tribute to the more than 2 million French and British soldiers who lost their lives in the great war.

Later, forging a symbolic link between two world wars and declaring the "enduring friendship" between their countries, the Queen and Mr Chirac unveiled an imposing bronze statue of Sir Winston Churchill, 54 years after the second world war leader stomped down the Champs Elysées with General de Gaulle on the first Armistice Day in liberated Paris in 1944.

Yesterday, under brilliant blue skies on a chill November morning, French veterans flanking the tomb saluted with white-gloved hands as the national anthems were played. The two heads of state moved to the Eternal Flame to lay their wreaths, and the brief refrain Aux Morts announced a minute's silence.

Crossing the Place de l'Étoile to a large crowd of on-lookers gathered for the com-

memorations, marked every year in France by a national holiday, the Queen and Mr Chirac were presented to four of France's 1,200 surviving first world war veterans.

"I prefer not to talk about it, really," said an emotional Georges Rideau, aged 101. "There are good and bad memories. I did my duty."

Maurice Bourgeois, also 101, said he had not been able to hear the Queen very clearly but was proud to have met her. "This reminds me of so many things. I saw so

would be the last major Armistice Day ceremony. British diplomats said the Queen would be unlikely to attend future first world war ceremonies abroad. "Today is a supremely symbolic day, marking in many ways the end of this century," one said.

While the Queen and Mr Chirac moved on to the Elysée Palace for lunch — *salade de légumes* with *foie gras* and truffles, roast Poullet and a 1978 Château Latour — with members of the Churchill family, the ceremony

Britain unveiled a statue to De Gaulle, France's second world war leader, in London in 1993, but it has taken five years for a private association founded by an Anglo-French businessman, Brian Reeve, to raise the £200,000 necessary to return the monument.

The pedestal of the 15ft bronze, which portrays a typically pugnacious-looking Churchill in the RAF uniform he wore on Armistice Day 1944, is inscribed with perhaps his most famous words: "We shall never surrender."

President Chirac expressed the admiration and recognition of the French people for "this powerful, free-willed personality who, in the most tragic moment of our history, knew how to carry on fighting and guarantee victory". Churchill, he said, was "an exceptional figure, who for us represents the unshakable resistance and fighting spirit of all the British people".

The site chosen for the statue, on the Avenue Winston Churchill near the river Seine, is only about half a mile from the Pont de l'Alma underpass where Princess Diana died in a car crash on August 31 last year. Embassy officials said the Queen would not be visiting the accident spot.

**'They knew the horrors of war and fought against overwhelming odds to preserve the freedom of Europe'**

many men fall — I lost half of my friends in the war."

Proportionately, France was the hardest hit of all the countries that fought the 1914-18 war, dubbed by French troops at the time *la grande guerre*, the last of the last. The country lost 1.35 million young men and, in all France, only two villages had no need to erect a memorial to their dead.

Fewer and fewer veterans remain, and French officials have said privately this

concluded with a parade of first world war vehicles, including five of the famous 5,000 Paris taxis requisitioned in 1914 to transport troops to the Marne front.

Unveiling the Churchill statue, the Queen, who spoke in French and English, said her first prime minister, "who guided me with such wisdom and humour through the earliest years of my reign", would have approved of "this special recognition of the 80th anniversary of the Armistice."

## Germans don't mention the war

Memories overwhelmed by Third Reich anniversaries and accompanying rows

Ian Traynor in Bonn

IN THE Compiegne clearing where the armistice was signed 80 years ago yesterday stands a large stone tablet inscribed with the words "The criminal pride of the German Empire crumbled here". At the gates of Paris in 1940, Hitler had the memorial blown up. It was rebuilt on November 11, 1945.

As the Queen and President Chirac remembered the fallen yesterday, there was no German chancellor present. Nor were there any meaningful remembrance services in Germany at all. In a country and a culture forever caught up in controversy and rows about its history, the first world war has become a virtual blank spot.

It would be impossible, of course, to understate the great war's significance for Germany and Europe: between 1.7 and 2 million dead

German soldiers (roughly double the British dead), the collapse of the German empire and the monarchy, revolution and the birth of the first German republic. And yet barely a flicker of remembrance.

"It's very regrettable," said Burkhard Assmus, in charge of the modern history archives at the German History Museum in Berlin. "The first world war ended the 19th century, ushered in the 20th, it shaped Germany and Europe, and it's hardly noted here."

Martin Vogt, Darmstadt university history professor, explains that all German remembrance energy goes into the second world war. "Besides, we still have a problem, it's very hard to admit or commemorate defeats. With 1945 it's different because many people see that as a liberation, not a defeat."

Earlier this year, President Chirac invited the German

chancellor to take part in a Franco-German remembrance ceremony at Verdun in the Ardennes. Helmut Kohl, then chancellor, agreed to take part. The office of Gerhard Schröder, the new chancellor, said: "Sorry, too busy".

Instead, Peter Hartmann, the German ambassador in Paris, will take part in a commemoration at the German military cemetery at Versailles this weekend.

"It shows Schröder has little feeling for history," the Frankfurt author, Cora Stephan, wrote yesterday. "In Germany many people feel it's obscene to mourn their own fallen who they have learned to identify as perpetrators or even murderers."

It is not November 11, but November 9 that is the totemic date of Germany's 20th century. November 11 is the day thousands of fools in fancy dress launch the annual Cologne Carnival, as they did yesterday.

The fall of the Berlin Wall, the 1988 anti-Jewish pogroms which prefigured the Holocaust, and Hitler's Munich

putsch attempt of 1923 all occurred on November 9. It was also the day in 1918 that Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated to the Netherlands, never to return to Germany where revolution produced the first, ill-fated republic.

"The first world war date — this bleak, grim, vindictive moment in history" in the words of the German historian Golo Mann — is barely recalled, overwhelmed by the Third Reich anniversaries and the public disputes that invariably accompany them.

"The 1918 date has been retreated and been repressed in the German memory," says Prof Vogt. "For the British it's different. It really was the great war, the casualties were much bigger than the second world war, unlike here."

"It says little for our culture that the first world war is almost completely forgotten," said Ms Stephan yesterday. "We don't seem capable of the most simple humane gesture: remembering and mourning the poor young men who were our great-grandfathers or great uncles and were turned into cannon fodder."

## Britain at standstill as 43 million observe the two-minute silence

AN estimated 43 million Britons observed a two-minute silence at 11am yesterday in remembrance of the millions who died in two world wars, the Royal British Legion said, writes Will Woodward.

Debate in the House of Commons came to a halt as the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, called on MPs to stand. More than 200 MPs present, including Tony Blair and opposition leaders, bowed their heads as Big Ben struck.

Law lords, lawyers and members of public at the Lords' appeal hearing of the case of the former Chilean dictator, General Augusto Pinochet, stood and also observed the silence.

BBC1, the ITV network, Radio 4 and Virgin Radio

observed the silence. Radio 5 Live broadcast a reading of Wilfred Owen's Dulce Et Decorum Est.

The Post Office said most of its 193,000 staff had taken up the invitation to remember the dead. Customers at Tesco stores had been warned of possible delays at checkouts as staff took part in the remembrance. At the store in Pitsea, Essex, more than 1,000 staff and shoppers stood in silence.

Railtrack and London Underground staff observed the silence, with passengers invited to join in. London buses pulled over to the side of the road if it was practical.

No British Airways planes pushed away from stands or started their en-

gines began journeys between 10.58 and 11.02.

Major companies including Honda, Nissan, Toyota, British Aerospace, Cadbury Schweppes, National Power, Powergen, Zeneca, McDonald's, Burger King and Marks & Spencer took part.

In Newcastle, hundreds of shoppers observed the silence and in Glasgow pubs delayed opening until the two minutes silence was completed.

But in both cities, and also in Manchester, there were complaints that some people had not taken part. Joe Moran, aged 76, from Glasgow, described "roaring traffic" as a disgrace and added that "police should see to it that cars and buses are stopped".

## Petals for each one of the dead

continued from page 1

Seine to the British war leader Winston Churchill. In Belgium, before going to Leper, the Queen, whose father served with the Royal Navy in the first world war, joined the Irish president Mary McAleese to open the Island of Ireland peace park nearby at Messines. Their joint act, held as a symbol of reconciliation, commemorated the battle of Messines Ridge, the only campaign in which Irish and Northern Irish soldiers fought together.

The park, which contains a peace tower, honours the 50,000 Irish who died, from north and south. According to the British embassy in Brussels, the tower represents the republic's first formal acknowledgment of the joint nature of the campaign.

## In which we serve, but not for long — why Coward was none too brave

Richard Norton-Taylor

SIR Noel Coward, whose acclaimed role in the film *In Which We Serve* epitomised stiff-upper-lip bravery, was invalided out of the first world war after complaining he could not abide noise, according to his personal wartime file released yesterday at the Public Record Office.

The actor, writer, producer, lyricist and composer was discharged from the 2nd battalion of the Artists' Rifles five months after enlisting as a private at the age of 18.

The official reason for his discharge, in an apparently contradictory medical report, is described as "neurasthenia" — a term then widely used to encompass undefined nervous problems. His War Office file, which describes Coward's former occupation as actor, suggests there was more to it than that.

"Looks pale, shaky, and nervous, cannot stand any noises and complaints of constant headache," wrote an army doctor in the report, dated August 3, 1918. "Mental — emotional and unstable. Family history bad," added the doctor at Colchester military hospital.

The cause of Coward's disability is described as "hereditary" and the army makes quite clear the condition was in no way aggravated by service life. But the report also refers to an incl-

Stiff upper lip: Noel Coward as seen in *In Which We Serve*

dent which occurred when Coward was a child. "When nine years old," it says, Coward, "was knocked down by a bicycle and concussion. Since then, he has been suffering from headaches and vertigo and general nervous debility." He reported sick soon after being called up.

Sheridan Morley, author of

Coward spent six weeks in hospital "in spite" notes Mr Morley, "of a number of sceptical doctors convinced that the whole thing was a hoax". Mr Morley said yesterday that he would not be surprised if Coward had not deliberately concussed himself.

No mention of the incident is contained in Coward's official file. Instead, his commanding officer describes his character as "good, steady and well conducted" — an explanation, perhaps, of why he received a Silver War Badge as well as a reflection of the actor's professional ability.

"Coward was not unpatriotic, the war was clearly coming to an end," said Mr Morley whose biography will be published in a new edition next year to mark the centenary of Coward's birth. At the time, he said yesterday, Coward was a self-centered young actor with little money who wanted to get his mother out of a lodging-house.

He made up his loathing of the army in the first world by his commitment to the navy in the second. In the 1942 film *In Which We Serve*, which he wrote and co-directed, Coward stars as a destroyer captain devoted to his ship and its crew.

Coward's later productions, notably *Cavalcade*, and the concerts he gave on naval ships in the second world war, reflect how "frantically patriotic" Coward later showed himself to be, Mr Morley said yesterday.

**"I'm never bored with talking about sex. Or writing about it. I'm almost as interested in writing about sex as I am in performing it. I love writing about sex."**

Clive Barker — a bigot's worst nightmare

**G2 page 8**

W. & J. GRAHAM'S  
ESTABLISHED 1820

Consummate (kōnsūmāt) late ME. [- Fr. quintessence, 'quinte essence' - med.L. 'quinta fifth essence. 1. The 'fifth essence' of and philosophy, supposed to be the substance of which the heavenly bodies were composed. 2. The most refined part of any substance; a highly refined essence. 3. In older chemistry, an alcoholic tincture obtained by distillation. 4. The purest or most perfect form of a thing. 5. The most perfect embodiment of persons, etc. 1590. 6. The highest perfection or excellence. 7. (of things) surpassing, so impressive. Quintessence n. The form or manifestation

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# Anger over car crash judge

'Monstrous injustice' on accident that left nanny scarred, claims MP. Amelia Gentleman reports

**A** POLICE decision not to prosecute Britain's most senior woman judge over a car crash which left a nanny scarred for life was last night condemned as "a monstrous injustice".

Officers investigating the crash have invited Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, aged 65, to attend a driver improvement course instead of going to court.

The judge, also known as Dame Elizabeth, was involved in a collision with another car in July on a country road near Stockbridge, Hampshire. Dame Elizabeth, and her 71-year-old husband, Judge Joseph Butler-Sloss, were treated in hospital for minor injuries following the crash.

The accident happened as the couple drove to their grandson's christening, with the child's nanny, Lisa Barwick, 25, in the back of the car.

Ms Barwick was left with serious facial injuries, it was reported yesterday. She still has fragments of glass lodged behind one eye and may lose her sight in both eyes.

Describing the result as an injustice, Labour MP Paul Flynn demanded an explanation from the police. "It is tempting to believe that the treatment was influenced by the fact that the person hurt was a nanny and the driver responsible was an elevated person in society. It would be interesting to know what would have happened if their positions had been reversed."

John Stewart, chairman of Road Peace, the national charity for road traffic victims, added: "This case does prompt suspicion that the judge got abnormally lenient treatment. Research shows that it is very important to

have fair and just sentences if victims of car accidents are to recover properly."

It appears that Hampshire police considered charging Dame Elizabeth, the sixth most senior member of the judiciary, with careless driving, but the decision not to do so was taken this week by an assistant chief constable. Usually this kind of decision is made by a junior officer.

Instead the judge has been given the option of attending a "driver rectification scheme" lasting one and a half days, and costing £100, where she will have to attend lessons on safe driving, complete a short driving course, and refresh her memory of the Highway Code.

If she accepts the offer within the next 21 days, she will not have to go to court, will not be fined and will have no points added to her driving licence. The maximum penalty for careless driving is £2,500.

Dame Elizabeth was not available for comment yesterday.

A spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's office said: "This is a private matter between the judge and Hampshire Constabulary."

Ms Barwick has now left the service of Robert Butler-Sloss, the judge's son. She told the Daily Mail yesterday that she was shocked and disappointed by the police's decision. "I am disappointed because I thought that her position as a judge would make no difference."

Hampshire police said that cases which involved "anyone high profile" were routinely referred to senior officers.

Inspector Andy Golding said that the course — run by a private contractor — was viewed as a positive way of dealing with driving cases.



Lady Justice Butler-Sloss: her grandson's nanny was badly hurt in the crash, but the judge has not been prosecuted

## Bench marks

October 1998: Richard Gee, a crown court judge, accused of participating in a £1 million mortgage fraud, was excused from standing trial — deemed unfit and suicidal under an escape clause rarely extended to humbler defendants. The decision to use no plea prompted uproar. The case was halted after the Old Bailey heard he was a "broken man" and that retrial would endanger

his life. Since the trial, Gee has been living in the US with his millionaire wife.

January 1998: Lady Birdwood, aged 84, escaped prosecution on charges of inciting racial hatred when the Attorney General accepted she did not have the capacity to stand trial. Four years ago she acquired a three months' suspended prison sentence for two years after being found

guilty of distributing a book which described the Holocaust as a lie and claimed a Jewish conspiracy. The judge told her: "I accept that you did not intend to stir up racial hatred. You are not a wicked old woman in that sense."

November 1997: Road safety campaigners were furious when a judge convicted of drink-driving for the third time escaped with

a 14-day jail sentence. Angus Macarthur was also fined £2,000 and banned from the road for 10 years.

June 1997: John Reeder, a judge, failed for five months for drink-driving — almost five times over the legal limit — after crashing his vehicle into another car. He was released after 30 days. The original sentence was reduced to two months on appeal.

# Bogus asylum seekers make way for abuse

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**T**HE word bogus has been banned at the Home Office by New Labour ministers when talking about asylum seekers, in an attempt to improve their negative image.

But don't cheer too loudly. Home Secretary Jack Straw thinks that they should simply be called "abusive asylum seekers" instead.

Immigration Minister Mike O'Brien revealed that "bogus asylum seekers" was no longer the proper term in an interview with the Refugee Council's magazine, *INXILE*. "We decided we should stop using the word 'bogus', to take it out of the lexicon."

"We don't use it — I think that Jack [Straw] slipped up once — but we are trying not to use it. It had become merely a phrase. The word 'asylum seeker' has been linked in the media to 'bogus', and all asylum seekers are not bogus. We recognise that. Refugees are always genuine, asylum seekers may or may not be. They may be abusive or they may be genuine. Once they are accepted as a refugee they are genuine."

But the words will change. A year from now, perhaps, the word 'abusive' will be

come a pejorative term. But it is making sure that the words don't distort the agenda," the minister said.

The rewriting of the New Labour lexicon coincides with the launch today of a Saatchi and Saatchi/Refugee Council advertising campaign to change public attitudes to asylum. It follows Saatchi's recent shock advertisements for the Commission for Racial Equality.

The theme of the new ads, created for free by Saatchi, is "Open minds, not an open door". A typical copyline reads: "Most refugees come to Britain for purely selfish reasons: to avoid death" and features a young Kosovan woman alone with her baby in a south London bed.

Nick Hardwick, chief executive of the Refugee Council, said: "Enough is enough. It is time to challenge what is going on in some parts of the media. Britain is not a soft touch for refugees. Indeed, asylum seekers and refugees are some of the most disadvantaged people in Britain today."

The campaign was initiated by Jane Tewson, co-founder of Comic Relief, who has set up a small charity, *Flotlight*, which aims to highlight the cause of people who face the worst hardship and discrimination here and abroad.

## Cook admits his aims fall short of 'ethical policy'

Ian Black  
Diplomatic Editor

**R**OBIN Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has insisted that he never promised an "ethical foreign policy" — and that he always reads through his red boxes.

In an interview with the New Statesman, Mr Cook says he never used the phrase so often attributed to him. When he took office, in May 1997, he promised to add an "ethical dimension" to British foreign policy — a more cautious pledge but which in shorthand usage has often been used to taunt him. "What we have sought to do in a practical way is to put into effect our values."

Highly sensitive to his image after attacks on his private life and policy issues, Mr Cook is concerned about the

publication soon of a book by his ex-wife Margaret, whom he left last year. And he has been irritated recently by MPs probing the arms for Africa affair even after Sir Thomas Legg's report exonerated him and ministers.

Human rights groups have accused him of betraying his ideals by not taking a tough enough line with powerful states such as Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and China. But some initiatives, especially on arms exports, are known to have been followed by Downing Street or the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Cook also seeks to lay to rest a claim that he did not attend to his ministerial red boxes. "The one thing I'm furious about, the one thing that gets under my skin, is accusations that I don't pay attention to the paperwork," he says.

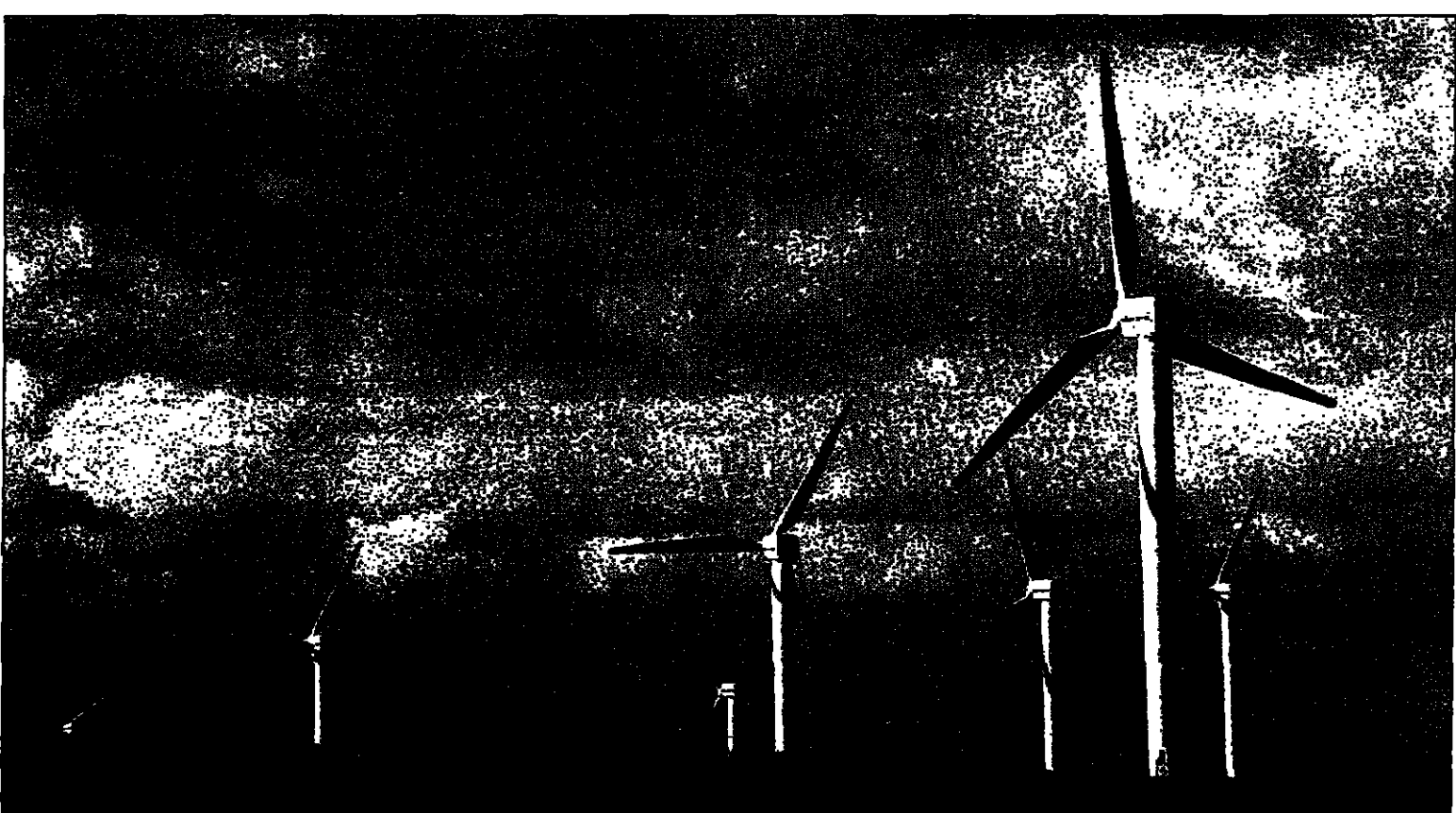
## Wind energy given boost

Paul Brown  
Environment Correspondent

**T**WO thousand large wind turbines, half of them offshore, will be installed for Britain in the next 10 years to meet government targets to cut greenhouse gases, Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, said at the climate talks in Buenos Aires, Argentina, yesterday.

Extensive wind power in Britain has been held up through lobbying to stop many planning applications. But Mr Meacher said: "If we are going to increase renewable energy fivefold, and we are determined to... there is going to be a considerable increase in wind turbines."

So far there are no offshore wind farms here, but the technology is ahead in Denmark. Offshore turbines can be three times the size of the land versions and are far more efficient. At present there are 700 wind turbines in Britain, mostly in the west, producing 330 megawatts of



Wind turbines, like these in Wales, already produce electricity on land, but the aim is to have 1,000 turbines offshore within 10 years. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

power in total — about a third of a conventional power station's output. The UK has a target of getting 10 per cent of its energy from renewable sources by 2010, five times the present level. About half the

increase will come from wind power, with about 2,000 turbines in all.

One of the problems for wind power has been that only those projects that produce power at the lowest cost

get support. This means that most applications for wind farms are for the most prominent and windy hills, often in places of scenic beauty. By contrast, in Denmark there are 4,000 turbines, and

more than 100,000 people have a stake in the profits of nearby wind farms.

Dale Vince, of Western Wind Power, who is at the climate talks, welcomed Mr Meacher's announcement but

said: "We have plenty of exploitable wind, more than Denmark or Germany, but not the same incentives. We need the Government to change the rules to encourage more of them to be built."

## Airport lift-off as loan curbs eased

Peter Hetherington reports on a would-be rival for Gatwick

**M**ANCHESTER'S council-owned airport confidently predicted yesterday that it would soon overtake Gatwick to become the second busiest in the country after the Government agreed to give it full commercial status.

Transport Minister John Reid ended years of uncertainty by announcing that the airport, along with three other similar municipal enterprises, would be allowed to borrow money on the open market for the first time from next April.

This means further expansion of Manchester, Newcastle, Leeds-Bradford and Norwich airports can go ahead faster than anticipated. They will be allowed to invest in improved public transport links, such as an eight-mile extension of Manchester's supertram system to the airport, hotels and shopping centres.

Dr Reid said the airports — particularly Manchester — would be encouraged to challenge Heathrow and

Gatwick, owned by the privatised company BAA.

"We want to maximise the contribution these airports make to their local economies, and to relieve congestion at airports in the South-east," he added. "Giving financially sound local authority airports the powers to raise private finance for development work will help us to do that."

Until now, expansion of council-owned airports has been curbed because government borrowing restrictions prevented them securing loans on the open market. Development had to be financed from profits.

Manchester, Britain's third airport handling 17 million passengers annually, is undergoing a \$200 million expansion programme, including a disputed second runway.

Brian Harrison, a city councillor and chairman of the airport board, said private funds would have a impact.

Plans for the expansion of a second terminal could be brought forward

## 'Dramatic new evidence' for Danny McNamee appeal

Rory Carroll

**A**MAN jailed for the IRA's 1982 Hyde Park bombing launches an appeal next week which campaigners predict will reveal dramatic new evidence to quash his conviction — making it one of the final miscarriages of justice from the Irish troubles.

Danny McNamee, aged 38, served 12 years of a 25-year sentence for conspiracy to cause explosions, including the car bomb which killed four soldiers and badly injured 17 civilians. Seven horses were also killed.

Campaigners yesterday said they had uncovered evidence that the prosecution at

the 1987 trial illegally withheld vital information from the defence about 25 fingerprints on an arms cache.

The jury was told the prints were unidentified, but they belonged to Dessie Ellis, a then jailed IRA bomb-maker. The IRA issued a statement denying McNamee was a member.

The two-week appeal, which starts in London on Monday, will also hear experts claiming that a partial thumbprint found on a battery in an unexploded IRA bomb cannot be identified as belonging to McNamee or anyone else.

The defence will argue that McNamee's job as an electronics engineer who

repaired thousands of CB radios and televisions, offered an innocent explanation of how his prints came to be found on two strips of adhesive tape.

A third strand of the appeal will challenge the prosecution's claim that McNamee, a physics graduate from Crossmaglen, South Armagh, designed the circuit board used in the Hyde Park bombing.

His solicitor, Gareth Peirce, said she had new material suggesting that evidence that Ellis possessed and admitted making identical devices in 1981 had been suppressed.

At press conference yesterday in London and Dublin, supporters — including Labour MPs Kevin McNa-

mara and Jeremy Corbyn — said they hoped McNamee would soon be recognised as a miscarriage of justice victim along with the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six.

He was released from the Maze prison last week, and became the first person convicted of a terrorist offence in Britain to be freed early under the Good Friday Agreement.

He was proceeding with the appeal to clear his name and allow him to practise law, which he studied in prison, gaining a second class degree from London University.

Adapting to freedom was a slow process, said his brother Francis. "He's just getting used to the idea that he

doesn't have doors locked behind him. Prison conditions were very horrific for the last three years in England... but he's getting healthier, putting on weight."

McNamee was one of six inmates who escaped from the top security Whitemoor jail at Cambridgeshire in 1994. He was soon recaptured but the subsequent trial collapsed because of prejudicial coverage.

Supporters believe the media helped foster an atmosphere of hysteria during the 1987 trial by branding McNamee an evil IRA master bomber. They said the judge, Mr Justice Cowan, never explicitly warned the jury to ignore media reports blaming him for up to 97 deaths.



Danny McNamee...released

## Sacked minister echoes fears over millennium bug

David Hencke  
Westminster Correspondent

**D**AVID Clark, the former cabinet minister who was responsible for overseeing action to resolve the millennium bug, yesterday backed a highly critical report which named nine ministries and agencies and three public bodies for failing to cope with the crisis.

Taskforce 2000, an independent monitoring body funded by private industry, says it has no confidence in figures released by the bodies to cope with the problem.

Among the worst examples are the Civil Aviation Authority and the National Air

Traffic Services, of which the report says "there is no information on which to base any level of confidence". The CAA — responsible for air safety — says it has 75 systems to work on and that remedial work and testing was due to be completed this July.

British Nuclear Fuels is accused of providing "no basis of confidence". The Bank of England is said to inspire "low confidence".

The nine departments described as high risk are: Home Office, Foreign Office, Ministry of Defence, the Office of National Statistics and the Northern Ireland Office.



## Food for thought



Feeding controversy... Councils fear heads would be able 'to save cash at the expense of children's health by allowing schools meals services to be handed over to fast food giants'



PHOTOGRAPHS: RICHARD OLIVER (left) and DENIS THORPE

## School meals 'sell-off' gets a roasting

Council leaders say letting heads privatise lunches poses a threat to children's health

John Carvel  
Education Editor

THE Government was last night accused of threatening children's health with plans to let head teachers privatise the school meals service without proper

monitoring. Council leaders said a ministerial decision to hand over responsibility for the meals budget to heads and governors posed a threat to millions of young people who relied on school lunches as the only proper meal of the day. Graham Lane, the Local Government Association's

Labour chairman of education, yesterday claimed heads would be able "to save cash at the expense of children's health by allowing schools meals services to be handed over to fast food giants". Local education authorities would no longer be able to keep a check on nutritional standards and prices. He was responding to a consultation paper from the Department for Education and Employment, pointing out that different schools in the same area would be able to have "radically different poli-

cies on pricing and content of meals, including content of free meals." The document asked for views on whether school governing bodies should be obliged to pay attention to local education authority policies on meals. It said some schools "anticipate being able to provide perfectly adequate meals and still make a profit which can be diverted." The issue has arisen because the Government decided earlier this year to delegate a larger share of the education budget to school

level — giving heads and governors of all state schools a degree of discretion over spending that was previously restricted to the opted-out grant maintained sector. Secondary schools will take control of the meals budget and may choose whether to switch supplies from the local authority to a private contractor. Primary schools will be expected to stay with the local authority unless they make a special case. Mr Lane said: "It is incredible that a Labour government could endanger the very

future of school meals. For many kids it's the only nourishment they get all day. "Under these plans there is no restriction on prices to be charged for school meals, no monitoring of nutritional standards and local education authorities cannot even monitor what is happening to the meals of children who are being left at the mercy of the market. I condemn these regulations as unworkable and against the interests of healthy eating." Government sources said Mr Lane had misunderstood

the policy. Schools would continue to have a duty to provide lunches on request and the Government recently re-introduced minimum nutritional standards to ensure their quality. Most secondary schools already operated a cafeteria system without price controls by the local authority. Under the new plans they would still provide good value for money because otherwise the pupils would eat elsewhere. "Heads and governors make rational decisions in the interests of their pupils. If

you are going to accept the LGA argument, you are saying you don't trust heads and governors to act in the interests of their pupils." When grant maintained schools took on responsibility for providing school meals, there were no big increases in prices or reductions in nutritional standards. Comments in the consultation document about problems of increased deprivation were included to show the sort of objections that other people might raise, but they were rejected by ministers, the sources said.

## Pinochet lawyer says principle of leader's immunity is 'crucial'

Janie Wilson  
and Michael White

LAWYERS acting for General Augusto Pinochet yesterday insisted he was entitled to "absolute immunity" from prosecution as the 300-page formal request asking for his extradition landed on the desk of Home Secretary Jack Straw. Drafted by campaigning Spanish judge Baltasar Garçon and approved by the Spanish cabinet last Friday, the document accuses Gen Pinochet of genocide, torture and terrorism and implicates the general in 3,178 murders or "disappearances" during his 17-year rule.

If the House of Lords up-

holds the appeal made by the Spanish authorities against last month's judgment — that Gen Pinochet has immunity and his arrest was unlawful — it will fall to the Home Secretary to decide whether to issue an authority for extradition to proceed. However, rumours circulating among MPs suggested that — if the appeal succeeds — Mr Straw will let the former Chilean dictator fly home in deference to Chile's internal "peace process". The five law lords are expected to finish hearing the case today but are likely to reserve judgment until next week at the earliest.

On the fifth day of the House of Lords hearing, Gen Pinochet's counsel, Clive Ni-

cholls QC, said the general had "absolute immunity" from prosecution under the State Immunity Act 1978. "There is no distinction to be made between the state, the sovereign or the current head of state," he said. "If he was, as head of state, in fear of future reprisals should he go abroad, he would be hindered in the proper exercise of his sovereign authority," the five law lords heard. Citing the example of Margaret Thatcher's conduct during the Falklands war, Mr Nicholls said she would have been prevented from properly leading Britain by the prospect of extradition to Argentina. "She would of course be im-

peded and of course so would any other head of state," he said. Mr Nicholls argued that the principle of head of state immunity was "crucial and essential". Earlier one of the law lords, Lord Slynn, summed up the central issue of the case as whether Gen Pinochet forfeited his diplomatic immunity because of the nature of the allegations against him — allegations Lord Slynn described as "quite appalling crimes". Meanwhile, lawyers for victims of the Pinochet regime are threatening to seek judicial review of the conduct of the Attorney General, John Morris, if he refuses leave for a private prosecution in Britain.

## Cybercops set to save Salford £20m

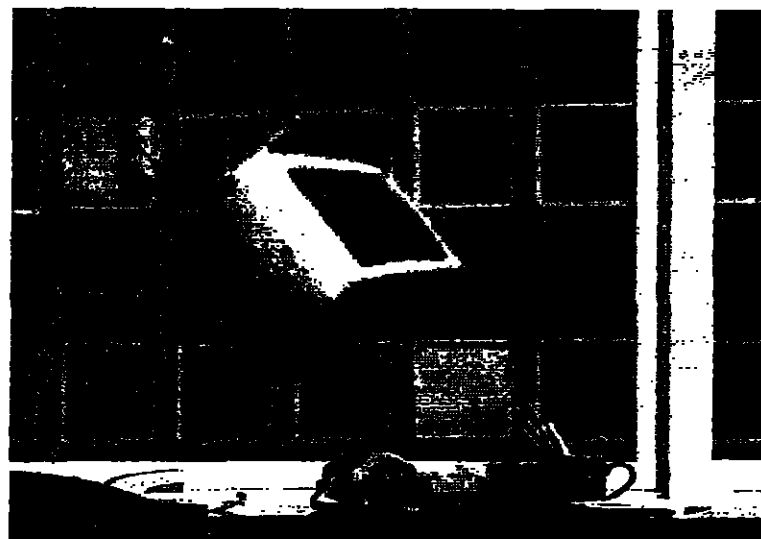
David Ward

THE blue lamps are going out all over Salford, and will be replaced by hole-in-the-wall coppers if police chiefs have their way. Bobbies who honed their public style on Dixon of Dock Green's arthritic knees will no more cry "Evening all!" from the portals of nicks along the River Irwell. Smiling desk sergeants with their eyes on a bit part in The Bill will be replaced by a voice in a machine like a bank cashpoint. Greater Manchester police, seeking to make

budget savings of £20 million, want to close all eight police stations in Manchester's twin city, and replace them with two super stations linked to the mean streets by loud-speakers in what are called local interaction points. Access will be available at the push of a button rather than the swipe of a card. Pin numbers will not be necessary and technical limitations will prevent the delivery of a flat police officer (plus optional receipt) through a slot on the machine. Nor will the machine be able to issue a statement of your credit with the law. Eventually full video links could be established,

with citizens able to maintain eye contact with the constable whose aid they seek. How the force regards the prospect of being on the receiving end of late night messages after the pubs have shut is not recorded. Senior officers suggest the system could also be used to provide town centre maps, route directions, crime prevention advice, information on missing persons and witness support schemes. The remote policeman may even be able to tell you the time. The hole-in-the-wall scheme, which could be extended to the entire force area if it succeeds, has caused alarm. A spokesman

for Age Concern, which has offices in the Eccles district of Salford, said: "We believe it would be quite daunting for an old person who does not have a telephone to leave their home and use one of these machines. It is not the same as speaking face to face in the safety of a police station." But Chris Wells, chief superintendent and divisional commander in Salford, said: "None of the existing police stations will close until replacement facilities have been installed. And it must be remembered that the vast majority of people who access our service do not visit a police station. They use a phone."



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"It's all changed since my day, it was all about burning your bra then, now it's about wearing your short skirt and getting the job." Call yourself a feminist?

Women, G2 page 4



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## Canadian boss gives himself up to Colombian guerrillas so that a worker can go free

### Mine owner volunteers to be a hostage

Jeremy Lennard in Bogotá and Anne McIlroy in Ottawa

THEY met on a rocky mountain path. It was the first time that the mine owner had ever been face to face with his worker, but they spoke briefly — then the boss handed himself over to Colombian kidnappers.

Norbert Reinhart, the 49-year-old Canadian owner of a goldmining company operating in Colombia, Terra-mundo Drilling, volunteered to make the extraordinary switch so that his employee, Ed Leonard, aged 60, could walk free.

The handover to the powerful guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, took place last month near the north-western city of Bucaramanga.

Mr Reinhart left behind two daughters, aged two and four, at home in Raymond, Alberta. His wife, Casey, is frustrated by the lack of progress in a settlement with the guerrillas to free her husband, and finds it hard to reassure her children.

She said yesterday: "I didn't want him to do it, but he felt a deep responsibility to get his man out. He spent three frightening and frustrating months trying to secure the release, and when he felt his last resort had failed, he offered to be exchanged."

Mr Leonard had been working in the gold rich hills in northern Colombia for only seven days when he and two colleagues were snatched on June 24. The other two were freed after 40 days, but the price on Mr Leonard's head was \$2 million (\$1.1 million).

Although the guerrillas had cut the demand to \$600,000 by the time of the switch, they put the figure back up after Mr Reinhart was in their hands. The price is now believed to be \$800,000.

Mr Leonard, who suf-



Norbert Reinhart (left) chats with his employee Ed Leonard on a mountain path in north-west Colombia before walking into captivity. Right, Mr Leonard now free and back at home in western Canada with his wife, Trollee

fered no ill-effects other than a broken tooth during his 106 days in captivity, is now back at home with his family in Creston, British Columbia.

He said: "It is hard to describe, knowing that someone is prepared to give up their life for yours."

His wife, Trollee, maintains regular contact with Mr Reinhart. "I know how terribly, terribly frustrating it can be," she said. "We talk every day."

Sophie Legendre, a spokeswoman for the Canadian government in Ot-

tawa, said yesterday: "As far as we are aware it was purely human nature — a compassionate gesture by Mr Reinhart. However, the exchange of hostages is against our government's recommendations."

Canadian officials are in formal contact with the Colombian authorities, who echo their concerns at Mr Reinhart's intervention, which they say rode roughshod over their activities.

An intelligence source in Bogotá said: "Negotiating the release of hostages is delicate and very time con-

suming." Hostage exchanges are highly unusual in Colombia. But in 1988, Andres Pastrana, now Colombian president, was seized by drug traffickers as he campaigned to become mayor of Bogotá.

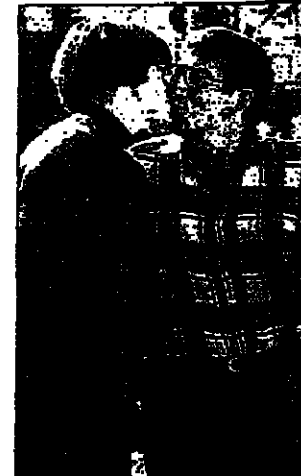
In a face to face confrontation with the heavily armed kidnappers, one of the police officers involved in negotiations offered himself as a replacement and Mr Pastrana was released.

A Colombian expert in guerrilla kidnappings was doubtful that the latest swap would be resolved so

simply. He said: "Mr Reinhart takes a considerable risk in following this precedent. The exchange of a senior politician for a policeman reduced the stakes. A worker for a senior executive raises them."

The northern region where the kidnap took place has become an intense battleground between leftwing guerrillas, rightwing paramilitaries and state forces anxious to control extensive mineral resources.

Colombia is a world



leader in kidnapping. Last year more than 2,000 people were seized. The FARC and its smaller brother, the National Liberation Army, take their hostages as a protest against the government's economic and energy policies, which they believe favour big business. They also kidnap to make money. It is estimated that the two rebel groups earned around \$250 million from snatches last year.

The majority of victims are Colombians, but foreigners are popular targets as they attract international media attention and higher ransoms. Most hostages are eventually released.

As part of efforts to bring about a peace process and end 40 years of internal conflict, the ELN recently agreed to reduce its kidnapping operations. And this weekend state forces completed their withdrawal from an area of Switzerland in Colombia's southern jungles as a precursor to talks between the government and the FARC.

All sides in the conflict accept that dialogue must take place, allowing Canadian officials to hope that an atmosphere of conciliation will help to bring Mr Reinhart's self-imposed captivity to a rapid end.

## Hurricane blows away Cuban loans

Charlotte Denny

CUBA yesterday became the latest country to write off its loans to the Central American countries ravaged by Hurricane Mitch.

Havana's announcement that it is cancelling a loan worth \$50 million (\$30 million) followed moves by France and Spain earlier this week to cancel their loans to the region.

Aid groups welcomed the news and urged Britain to reverse its opposition to unilateral debt cancellation. The storm has killed an estimated 10,000 people, left hundreds of thousands homeless and destroyed economic infrastructure. Worst hit were Honduras and Nicaragua which appealed for help with foreign debts at a summit of Central American presidents on Monday.

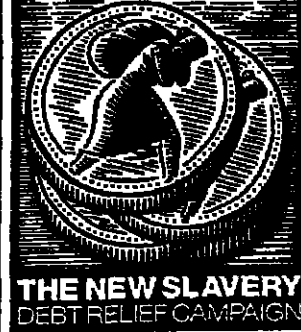
Britain wants a co-ordinated approach to debt relief for the region by western creditor countries and the international financial institutions.

On Tuesday the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and the International Development Secretary, Clare Short, announced that they had written to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund calling for a moratorium on debt service payments.

Britain also favours setting up a trust fund to meet short-term debt service obligations. Britain would contribute £10 million.

Oxfam said the proposals were "a leap forward for the creditors, but they are a small step for the people of Nicaragua and Honduras". Oxfam's policy adviser, Tony Burden, said: "This must be coupled with substantial aid. The UK contribution is only the same as what the British public have contributed in 24 hours."

Britain has promised slightly over £1.3 million in aid. France has written off loans worth \$30 million (\$77 million). The Spanish government will give up about \$64 million by waiving payments due before 2002. Honduras owes Britain



\$2.2 million out of its total foreign debt of \$4.4 billion, while Nicaragua owes \$1.3 million from its \$5.8 billion.

Oxfam and other aid groups want a meeting of all creditors and the international financial institutions to discuss speeding multilateral debt relief. Neither Honduras nor Nicaragua can qualify for reduction in their loans until they have spent three years on an IMF programme of economic reform.

Mr Burden said bilateral debts should be written off and and multilateral debt reduced to levels that release enough money for recovery.

Nicaragua, he said, "allocates half of government revenue to debt servicing, and Honduras a third of revenue. Oxfam suggests this should be reduced to a limit of 5 per cent of revenue for both countries."

Britain's Treasury is opposed to unilateral debt write-offs, arguing that rich lender countries benefit, rather than the debtor. Under World Bank rules, creditors agree to reduce their loans in proportion to how much of the total debt stock is owed to them. Because most rescheduling agreements reduce the overall loans burden rather than writing it off, if one country cancels all debt, it simply reduces the amount other creditors have to pay.

The Guardian's campaign to write off developing countries' debt is highlighted on the Internet at <http://reports.guardian.co.uk/debt/>

Leader comment, page 9

## Rome's taxi drivers lock bumpers with city hall

Philip Whelan in Rome

FOUR-DAY strike by taxi drivers has given Romans a foretaste of the kind of traffic chaos they may encounter if an extra 30 million tourists descend on the city in two years' time to celebrate the turn of the Christian millennium.

The strike by 6,000 drivers is intended to stop the city council introducing rules which it hopes will make their services more flexible and efficient. In a city which is ill-served by public transport and can be brought to a halt by a heavy rainfall, it has been an authentic disaster.

"We had some disruption due to flooding, but otherwise things were fairly normal," he said.

"Things will definitely be worse tomorrow. There is going to be a protest march to Piazza Venezia. They say taxi drivers will be coming



Jam yesterday and more jams today as taxi drivers in Italy's capital stay idle in the central Piazza Venezia in protest at council plans to unjam the roads of tomorrow

PHOTOGRAPH: VINCENZO PINTO

caused by a thunderstorm, rather than the taxi strike.

"We had some disruption due to flooding, but otherwise things were fairly normal," he said.

"Things will definitely be worse tomorrow. There is going to be a protest march to Piazza Venezia. They say taxi drivers will be coming

from all over the country. There is little doubt that the centre of the city will be entirely blocked."

Among those affected are tourists flying in to Fiumicino Airport. Those arriving late at night find the trains and buses have stopped running. Car-hire firms at the airport said their business

has risen by 30 per cent. It is a terrible week for Italian public transport.

Strikes are expected in land, sea and air services. Even Venice's water taxis are involved. There will be misery for millions of travellers, and hapless tourists are likely to be left with an indelible impression.

The attempt by the centre-left mayor of Rome, Francesco Rutelli, to inject some flexibility and competition into Rome's rigidly managed taxi service is important for the future of the city, and is a test case for similar reform and modernisation around the country. Rome has a skimpy two-

line underground system, an unreliable bus service whose vehicles that are often crowded and infested with pickpockets, and taxis. The taxi service is generally efficient and good value, but the division of its working day into four rigid shifts can make finding a taxi next to impossible at

certain times and in certain areas while at other times of day long queues of vehicles sit idle at the taxi ranks. And when it rains, they disappear again as if by magic.

The council is due to vote today on regulations that require the drivers to work more flexible hours and let

them decide among themselves how they want to organise the shift system. It also proposes to introduce pre-payment cards.

To cut the damaging air pollution levels, the council plans to reduce private traffic in the city by 30 per cent over the next few years — taxi drivers permitting.

## Opec tactics overheat greenhouse talks

Paul Brown in Buenos Aires

SAUDI ARABIA and the other countries in the oil producers' organisation Opec are blocking progress at the world climate talks in Argentina until they are promised compensation for lost revenue as less oil is used.

Opec wants a tax levied on every agreement between developed and developing countries to trade permitted carbon dioxide emissions

for cleaner combustion technology, and the proceeds paid to its members.

Temperatures were frayed as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Venezuela repeatedly intervened in discussions which lasted until 4.30am. Since every decision has to be reached by consensus any one of the 180 countries present can prevent progress.

The objections were orchestrated by Don Pearman, a Washington lawyer and veteran campaigner for oil interests, who represents an

organisation called the Global Climate Institute. He was seen repeatedly briefing delegates from the oil states, but refused to talk to journalists.

Negotiations continued in side rooms yesterday as Carlos Menem, the Argentine president, formally opened the political part of the conference with a reference to the 35,000 dead and 25,000 missing in Central America as a result of hurricane Mitch and an appeal, in the light of this tragedy, for all sides to work for progress.

The politicians have already accepted that they cannot reach final agreement on carbon trading and technology transfers at these talks. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said the objective was to produce a programme for the next year which would move the process forward.

Experience showed that meetings involving only officials became bogged down for months at a time, he said. A working group including politicians as well as officials was

needed between conferences. Opec is using a little-noticed passage in the original climate change convention, signed in 1992, which allows developing countries to claim compensation for damage caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases.

At the time people believed this would help small island states damaged by rising sea levels the poorest countries subject to drought and spreading deserts.

But a sub-clause provides compensation for countries

whose economies depend strongly on the income from producing, processing and exporting fossil fuels.

Uta Collier from the World Wide Fund for Nature said: "This is a scandal. These are the richest per capita countries in the world trying to take money which is supposed to be paid to the poorest. They want to syphon millions of pounds from the pockets of the poor into their own."

"I cannot believe they think countries like Britain will ask their taxpayers to subsidise

the Saudi Arabian princes in their current lifestyles. It is merely a spoiling tactic."

Richard Muyungi from Tanzania said the tactic was causing considerable resentment in developing countries.

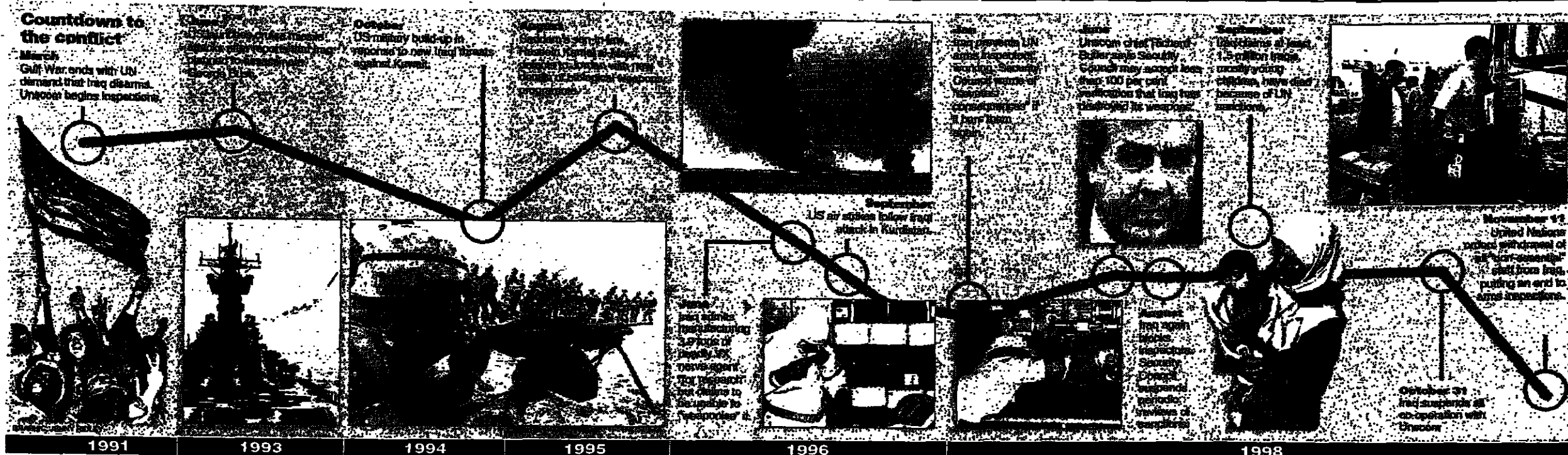
Mr Prescott said: "We are not going to concede to their demands, nor are we going to allow them to prevent a final agreement. We have 48 hours left to get progress and we intend to come out with a workable programme to continue towards greenhouse gas reductions."



Carlos Menem: Remember Hurricane Mitch, and act

صلى الله عليه وسلم





# Cat and mouse game in injury time

## UN retreats/White House forces Unscm to withdraw staff

Ian Black  
Diplomatic Editor

IT WAS early on Tuesday evening when the call came through to Richard Butler's office on the 32nd floor of United Nations headquarters in New York.

Peter Burtleigh, Washington's acting representative at the world body, was on the line with some grim but predictable news. After high-level consultations at the White House, Washington was asking for the immediate withdrawal of all UN personnel from Iraq.

Mr Butler, a combative Australian, had little choice but to comply. Yesterday he was insisting that Unscm — the UN special commission monitoring the dismantling of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, which he heads — still has work to do to seek out and destroy Iraq's banned arms weapons.

Removing Unscm and other UN agencies is the clearest signal yet that the United States and Britain mean business in their latest confrontation with President Saddam Hussein. Warnings of air strikes will be taken more seriously if there are no potential "human shields" on the ground.

Washington and London would like to see the Iraqi dictator back down quickly in the face of what they insist are "credible threats" of military action. If he does not, this crisis, ostensibly similar to the many others that have preceded it since the end of the Gulf war in 1991, may signal a sharp shift in Western policy.

Seven years of the most intrusive arms control regime ever known have had mixed results. Most of Mr Saddam's once formidable arsenal of chemical and biological weapons and the ballistic missiles to deliver them has been destroyed, though some items, including the deadly VX nerve agent, remain unaccounted for.

Without monitoring, experts warn, Iraq could produce chemical and biological weapons in weeks; a long range missile — capable of hitting Saudi Arabia or Israel — in a year; and a nuclear weapon in five years.

Yet Unscm may have outlived its usefulness. Iraq has never co-operated fully, repeatedly lying despite being repeatedly found out, maintaining special security units to conceal and move weapons and documents in a high-stakes game of cat and mouse played out in car parks, factories and presidential palaces across the country.

Its very presence, say American critics, allows Saddam to mount provocations at times of his own choosing, to sap the will of a distracted, crisis-weary world, to exploit fatigue and guilt over the blunt instrument of sanctions and play cleverly on international divisions.

So instead, some policy-makers argue, Unscm should be replaced by simple containment. If the Iraqi leader uses banned weapons against neighbours or the Kurds at home, he can be hit hard then, with his enemies calling the shots.

And the sanctions, whose lifting is linked directly to a clean bill of health from the UN inspectors, will be targeted more effectively against the regime.

Unscm's alarm bells started ringing in the summer when the US and Britain urged Mr Butler not to mount intrusive inspections that would trigger a new crisis when they were unprepared for it. And Mr Butler himself, struggling for an exit strategy, signalled that the UN Security Council would make do with "less than 100 per cent" Iraqi disarmament.

If Saddam Hussein had taken that juicy carrot, the end of sanctions could probably now have been in sight. Russia and France, his best friends at the UN, worked hard to secure the "light at the end of the tunnel" he has long demanded. But both are furious that he has provoked this confrontation.

So now the talk is again of air and missile strikes, with ministers like Britain's George Robertson posing menacingly by RAF Tornados and aircraft carriers speeding to the Gulf. Kuwait apart, no Arab state backs the use of force. But so flagrant is Iraq's defiance that they may simply acquiesce in it.

Military action will be carried out by the US and Britain



Women wave giant portraits to show their support for Saddam Hussein in his clash with the UN PHOTOGRAPH: KARIM SAHIS

— with a token European or two playing a symbolic role — and all insisting, to the fury of Moscow and Beijing, that there is no need for new UN resolutions. Targets will include Iraq's Republican Guard and some of the other privileged special units that guard the core of a regime subject to intensive scrutiny

by Western spy satellites and intelligence agencies. Western attacks could allow the Iraqi leader to posture as a nationalist hero, but his own people know not only the true price of sanctions, but also the fear of living under a brutal tyranny.

Yesterday the normally reliable Iraqi Communist Party reported that 122 people were executed last month in the Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad.

But whatever bombing achieves, it is unlikely to save Unscm. "It will damage any further chances of monitoring," said one dismayed Third World diplomat. "Bar- ring a total allied invasion, they will never let the inspectors back in."

## Clinton advances/Pentagon plans more than symbolic strike

Julian Borger in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton faces two broad military options: a symbolic air strike has the advantage of representing almost no risk to United States servicemen, but Pentagon planners believe that limited strikes have been increasingly shrugged off by Iraq's government.

The other option is to launch a comprehensive bombing campaign to inflict maximum damage on the sinews of the regime, concentrating on special units of the Republican Guard, which serve both as an elite military force and as the guardians of Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

"I think the priority this time around is not pinpricks but a very serious, very destructive dismantling of the Iraqi military machine, which has been showing signs of a renaissance," a diplomat in Washington said.

With this option in mind, the US has been rushing military hardware to the region. The Pentagon already has at its disposal the USS Eisenhower aircraft carrier and a naval battle group armed with over 300 Tomahawk cruise missiles, and 170 aircraft.

The USS Enterprise aircraft carrier and a marine task force are due to arrive in the Gulf on November 23 and November 26 respectively. And air power is to be boosted with 12 F117 stealth fighter-bombers, armed with laser-guided bombs, 18 heavy bombers, B1s and B52s which will be deployed on the British Indian Ocean island dependency, Diego Garcia.

Ground troops are also on the way to the region but are unlikely to be used in an assault. They are intended to reinforce US allies on Iraq's borders to deter a retaliatory attack in the event of air strikes.

When this new firepower is in place, the US force in the Gulf will be as substantial as the armada that gathered to confront President Saddam in February, but this time it will have a

firmer geo-political base from which to attack.

Under such conditions, it is hard to gauge what last-minute concessions from Baghdad would be enough to fend off the threat of an attack. There were voices in Congress and in the state department in February arguing that the US should not have accepted the deal clinched by the United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan, in which Iraq avoided air strikes in return for guarantees that Unscm weapons inspectors would be able to work freely.

They were proven right a few months later and will be warning against clutching at olive branches proffered by Baghdad this time.

US officials believe that the Iraqi leader has miscalculated in the timing of his showdown. He had assumed Mr Clinton was too weakened by the possibility of impeachment to pose a serious military threat. But the mid-term elections on November 3 have strengthened the president.

### Iraq's arsenal

Estimated weapons and material unaccounted for included:

- Nuclear weapons: None
- Ballistic missiles: Sixty types of missiles and warheads, propellants and other components.
- Chemical weapons: Hundreds of tons of chemical warfare (CW) products, munitions and production equipment. Eight VX programmes — deadliest nerve agent known.
- Biological weapons: "The black rice". Some 17 tons of biological warfare growth media, enough to produce more than three times the amount of anthrax toxin known to man.

Weapons and material destroyed included:

- 38,000 CW munitions
- 400,000 lbs of CW agents
- 45 operational missiles
- Six missile launchers

# society

Every Wednesday in the

*The* **Guardian** EUROPE

Guardia  
 at-track for  
 relief

## Diary

Matthew Norman

I AM intrigued to read in the Telegraph that William Hague has become obsessed with Alastair Campbell and seeks a Fleet Street bruiser for his press chief. Candidates, it seems, have included the Sun's Trevor Kavanagh whose conspiracy theory about a "gay mafia" at the heart of government suggests he's just made for Smith Square, and that paper's former editor Stuart Higgins. However, the job will probably go, it seems, to my old friend Jonathan Holborow, until recently editor of the Mail on Sunday. Mr Holborow would be a magnificent choice and we await the appointment with relish. Curiously, there is no word yet as to whether Oswald will be going with him. Oswald, you may remember, is the white linen handkerchief to whom Mr Holborow clings excitedly when under stress (the handkerchief was named after Sir Oswald Noyes). If they do go as a team, the likely division of duties is for Mr Holborow to take on the tabloids; and for Oswald — widely regarded as the more cerebral of the pair — to look after the heavy-weight broadsheet pundits.

THE outing of Mandy Manderson provokes an explosion of raw wit from the Tory backbenches, and leading the way is Christopher Chope. The member for Christchurch has asked a question of Mandy's junior at Trade, the former Beach Boy Brian Wilson. "Can he explain to me why the Secretary of State will not follow the advice in a leading article in the pink paper?" said Mr Chump. "The Financial Times..." Oh, my aching sides.

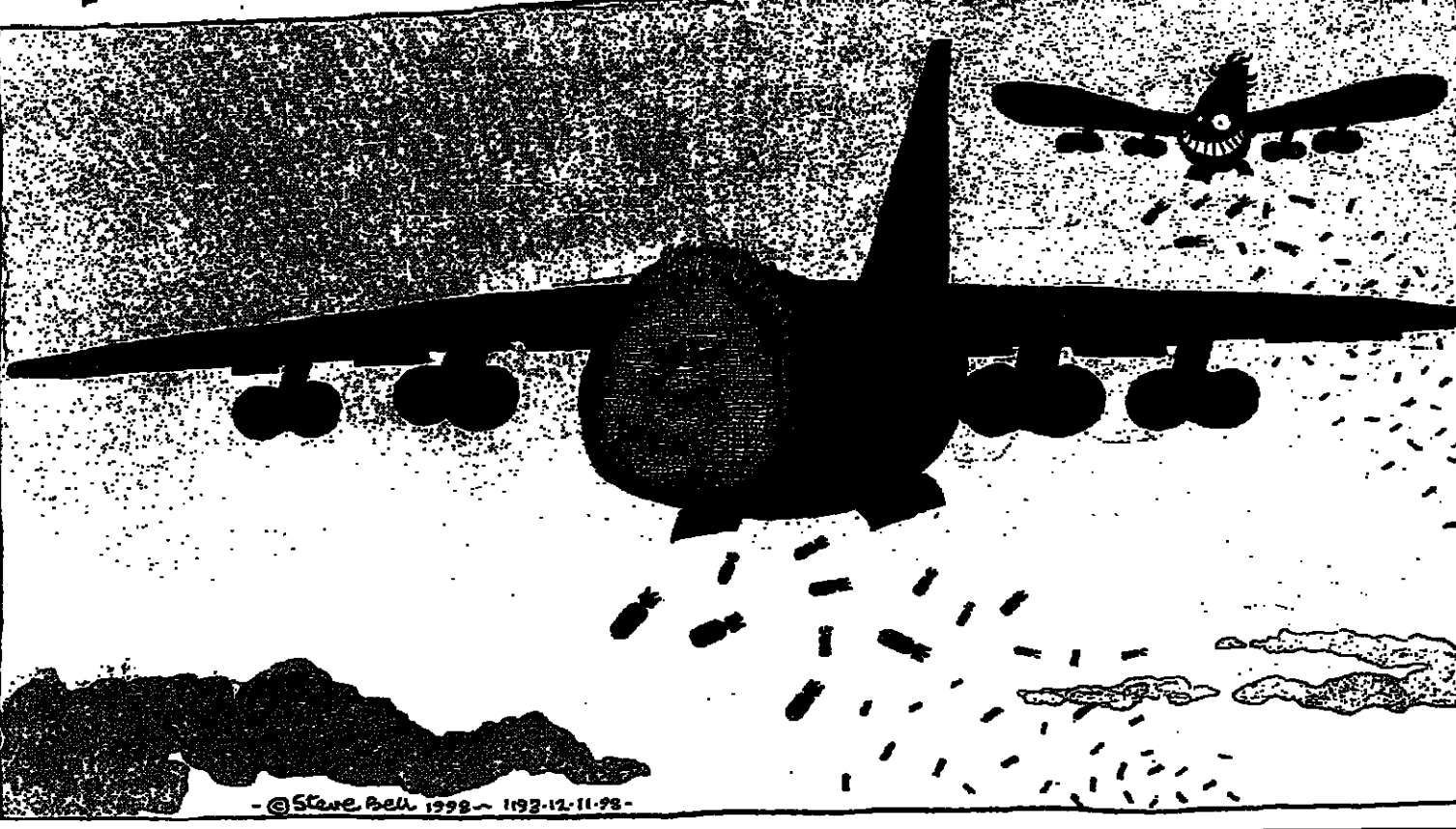
WHY Mr Hague has not gone for the obvious candidate, Telegraph editor Boris the Jackal Johnson, is unclear. Perhaps he is concerned that the Jackal has embarked on a new career in pornography. He has contributed a little sketch to the Erotic Review, a new magazine whose editor he recently chaired to (in Latin) about the G-spot. Until our psychologists have given their opinion, it is hard to know what to make of the drawing, which features a naked woman in the foreground on a donkey (no euphemism; it's a real donkey), and two more — one with pert breasts, the other revealing an odd protruberance in the background. Mr Hague should not let this pornographic departure concern him. He is looking, after all, for the closest thing to Alastair Campbell.

MEANWHILE, in further shock news from Fleet Street, it is reported that the Cypriot waiter Taki-George has left the Sunday Times, where he has been writing the paper's Abacus column (it teaches small children numeracy by inviting them to count the number of obscure celebrity names dropped in each paragraph) for five years. Taki is in New York at the moment, working in the bar of the Gramercy Park hotel by night (he is taking his annual crash course in English Comprehension for Beginners by day), but we hope to contact him tomorrow, via reception, for a comment.

THE Phil Hall Hotline, which readers were invited to ring with anecdotes about the News of the World editor, has been jammed all day: a total of one call has been received (and that a tale of professional rivalry). This ferreting for personal details game is harder than it looks.

ON Tuesday, the Press Association reported that "the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment took time off from Trooping the Colour to visit Brixton to encourage young men and women to make a career with it". Captain Adam Lawrence was quoted saying: "We aim to show the regiment as a good career opportunity for young men and women and to stress the fact that a career with the Household Cavalry is open to anyone." Delightful. In yet another important instance of Jungian synchronicity, it was on Tuesday that General Colin Powell happened to be in London to address a military conference on racism in the armed services.

## AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING THEY SHALL GIVE WAY TO OUR SUPERIOR FIREPOWER...



## Abdication might be a now event, but the old lady's job is for life

Hugo Young



TWO images of monarchy. Eighty years after the end of the first world war, the Queen lays her wreaths in Paris and at Ypres. She performs with the solemnity she was born to master. It's a sacred moment, on which she confers something more than the transience of a person selected by human choice. At the Cenotaph every year, she plays an almost priestly role. For those with souls open to such sentiment, she does personify the dignified aspect of the nation: its feelings, and its need for a single, slightly mysterious figure to represent them.

Fifty years after the birth of the Prince of Wales, however, these performances are given a jarring context. The week has been full of talk about abdication, and not just by flacks juicing up the audience for a tired television programme. An old debate is once again unleashed. The mystery is reduced to the brute modernity of rational conversation. The Queen's abdication would be a very new event. The talk about it is in keeping with the spirit of the times. She is, after all, getting old when oldness is, though reaching ever deeper into the perennities of populism, an interesting if not repellent. And the prince is not getting younger. If his mother survives as long as her most famous ancestor, he could be 75 when he comes into his inheritance. He faces the ruin of his professional career.

But the issue is more than personal. Is not the royal family there to please and entertain, to satisfy public demand by fulfilling modern requirements? The focus groups are speaking. It's surely appropriate — millennial, even — to see monarchy bowing the

knee to these irrefutable prophecies of the moment.

An institution whose public purpose is the global marketing of the nation is bound to re-evaluate the marketing of itself. Doesn't a corporation have a duty to the shareholders to see its aging chiefs move on? Since the monarchy is supposed to be professionalised, employing consultants by the score, it must make sense to put the old lady out to grass.

The talk of this, moreover, is itself completely necessary, another service the monarchy must perform. Since the textbook tragedy under the Place d'Alma, there has been nothing much to talk about. The royal gossip and speculation that became the life-support system for huge sections of the media and their audience needs something else to bite on. They literally cannot survive without it. Demystifying royalty is a heroic public task and, after the princess, what about the Queen? Having stripped royalty of every vestige of uniqueness, the national conversation insists that nothing should be sacred.

Nor, perhaps, should it be. On the other hand, it should not deconstruct the institution so thoroughly that, while pretending to uphold monarchy, it tends towards a conclusion where there will be nothing left. In the world of marketing, the rational soon becomes banal. Banality is what the talk of abdication offers.

If monarchy has a point, it is precisely that it should live by unfamiliar rules. The anointing proclaims something more durable than the blessing of Mori and Gellip. Discussing as to the suitability of Prince Charles as against Queen Elizabeth be- tokens a want of even the

most elementary sense of history. It's the depressing proof that absolutely nothing must be allowed to escape death by manipulated unpopularity. The relative merits, next, of Prince Charles and Prince William are debated as if these were optional candidates for a place at the top of the Labour list in the coming European elections.

THE monarchy does have a point, but only if it is saved from any of the taints of democratic selection. Idle chatter about the character of the incumbent, or the frailties of her heir, or the speculative potential of her grand-heir, shouldn't be taken as a meaningful debate about questions of constitutional relevance.

The monarch needs to be aware of what the people think, and there's some evidence that the Queen has taken imaging advice which induces her to smile more than she used to. She seems to be treading a nervous little pathway from the extremes of the high and mighty, but the notion of her early departure from office, at the behest of nothing better than a media-mediated demand for a bit of novelty, strikes me as a prelude to self-destruction.

The monarchy must be beyond such trifling relativism. Its purpose is to be the mask of national stability, behind which the politicians come and go, doing whatever the people will let them get away with. If it's a force for social conservatism, that is what the people want. There is no where near a majority to get rid of it, and it can survive the very different phenomenon of the hereditary peerage as a governing class. But all this depends on the maintenance

of its essential illogic: its limited susceptibility to the forces of reason: its status as a weird connection with history, whose incumbency is determined by the accidents of death as well as birth.

This is a burdensome destiny. It consigns queens and princes to all the tortures of the modern age. Their characters will be incessantly probed, their private lives laid bare. Every kind of question about them will be submitted to public opinion. The people will feel perfectly entitled to say whether they are good parents, good lovers, good servants, good royals.

No impertinence is too monstrous for the media to refrain from deploying it at unctuous length. Elizabeth II and her brood are nailed to the media stake as brutally as Henry VIII burned the subjects whose religion displeased him. Some might see this as an apt, if belated, turning of the tables. The victims have become the masters, and the masters suffer a fate they're powerless to control.

They need to go on doing it, however. That's the gift they're born to give their country, and it has a few compensations. The inheritors are not destitute. They can choose what work to do and not do. Desperate smiles of gratitude greet their very presence everywhere they go: the grovelling can always be relied on, to sweeten the torture.

But this is a fate for life, however many rules of modernity it disobeys. That truth shone through at Ypres and the Arc de Triomphe. Laying the nation's remembrance wreath is a duty that can't be contracted out. In our culture of monarchy, an abdication of convenience is simply not available.

Downing St wants regional leaders who are untroubled by convictions

## Give Ken a fair run

Roy Hattersley



NEVITABLY the principles have been obscured by the personalities. Nothing now surprises me about New Labour. So when I read that Tony Blair had been offended by the sight of Rhodri Morgan's untidy living room, I was perfectly prepared to believe that Alun Michael is the Prime Minister's choice to lead the Welsh assembly because he regularly pumps up the cushions on his sofa.

However, underneath all the nonsense that is being written about the leadership of the Welsh and London governments, a couple of important ideas are struggling to break free.

For once, the newspapers cannot be blamed for concentrating on the wrong issue. The creation of an executive mayor of London is intended to focus voters' attention on individuals rather than ideology. Were Jeffrey Archer to be elected — a disaster which the Labour leadership makes daily more likely — he would not have been chosen because of his position on the political spectrum. He would have been judged "the right man for the job".

The Prime Minister wants to remove politics from local government. So out goes the sort of election in which rival parties compete on the basis of alternative manifestos, and in comes the appointment of a good manager who is untroubled by convictions.

It is just bad luck that the Ron Davies tragedy has faced the Welsh Labour Party with the need to choose between the enthusiastic Morgan and the originally reluctant Michael. However, even in the assemblies, the government has done its best to diminish the impact of party politics by introducing a form of proportional representation which will certainly produce a coalition in Scotland.

UNFORTUNATELY, the arguments about the future of the monarchy and the double talk about "leaving the decisions to the members" have obscured the general principles.

Is a leader entitled to impose his will, not to mention his prejudices, on the whole party? And is it right and reasonable to expect rank and file members to agree with every detail of the often arbitrarily decided policy or to keep their disagreements to themselves? One of the great achievements of New Labour is the almost total destruction

of dissent. In a democracy we ought to be asking whether that is a healthy or a disturbing development.

Agreement, the unanimity of the graveyard, Aneurin Bevan used to call it — is good for the party's popularity. That is why the ruthless suppression of dissent has been accepted with so little complaint. With the bells of victory still ringing in their ears, most Labour supporters — New and Old — are reluctant to argue the virtues of argument. They know that it was the open disagreements which made the party unelectable for almost 20 years. And some of us are honest enough to admit that, if Labour was still a socialist party, we would be far less squeamish about stamping on dissidents' feet with the conscious intention of breaking their toes.

A party has a duty to define and a right to defend its political frontiers. However, the political integrity argument creates difficulties for the Labour leadership. They are the apostates. The heretics are now in charge. They are not accused of treason — as David Owen and Roy Jenkins, who hold similar ideas, once were — because treason prospered.

Even allowing for the usurper's traditional intolerance, not even the ultras of New Labour suggest that Ken Livingstone and Rhodri Morgan are beyond the political pale. And the Bourbons cannot credibly claim that either man is less competent than his potential rivals. The only charge against them is that they will not, or may not, march in step to every note of the Downing Street tune. But, if they did, what would be the point of having devolved gov-

## The Prime Minister wants to remove politics from local government

ernment in Wales and an executive mayor for London?

The proper position is obvious enough. The leaders of the Scottish and Welsh assemblies and the mayor of London ought (if Labour wins all three elections) to share the national leadership's general political philosophy, but argue about the way in which it is applied to the devolved governments which they lead. One of the problems of applying that principle is that no one is sure what the leadership's general political philosophy is. Another is Downing Street's fear of rival ideas.

In the old days we were more confident about our beliefs. For that reason, although I will not vote for Ken Livingstone to be Labour's candidate for mayor, I have no doubt that he must be allowed a fair run at nomination. And, if I were Welsh, I would vote for Rhodri Morgan without hesitation.

The legitimate pride of the Scots, English and Welsh can co-exist in our planned multinational Britain

## The SNP nightmare

Gordon Brown

ARTHUR Schlesinger writes that "countries break up when they fail to give ethnically diverse peoples compelling reasons to see themselves as part of the same nation". The British question, in the run-up to next May's Scottish and Welsh elections, is whether what binds our different nations together will triumph over a nationalism which would break us apart. More precisely the fight between Labour and political nationalism is whether the politics of social justice prevails over the politics of ethnic identity.

The debate matters for England too. As the Tebbit "cricket test" and the Stephen Lawrence case illustrate, there are those who would retreat from an expansive idea of Brit-

ishness into a constricted shell of rightwing English nationalism.

My vision of Britain is where unity comes not from uniformity, but from celebrating diversity, in other words a multicultural, multi-ethnic and multinational Britain. To achieve this we must move from an old centralised uniform state — to a modern pluralist democracy — the Britain of citizens.

There is a 300-year-old case for the union built upon deference to ancient institutions. But what unites Britain is not, at root, a set of institutions. It is the extent of shared values, and the fact that all of us are enhanced by the interaction and sharing of values and experiences and will be diminished without it. These shared values that unite Britain are far removed from Mrs Thatcher's partial

interpretation of Britishness in the 1980s — her glorification of self-interest, hostility to foreigners, and a constitution beyond improvement.

Instead, I understand Britishness as being outward-looking, open and internationalist, a commitment to democracy and tolerance, to creativity and enterprise and to public service, and to justice or, as we often put it, to fair play.

These ideas have modern expressions which go beyond our common defence and security, and an integrated economy. Take the NHS created by a Welshman. When we talk of the National Health Service, for everyone national means British. The vast majority would agree that any citizen of Britain has an equal right to treatment irrespective of wealth or race. Of course, the British

idea of national insurance has changed over time. But no one can deny that by sharing risks among 58 million citizens and by the strong helping the weak it makes us all stronger.

So the dividing line with separatists is clear: public spending allocated according to need, not on national identity; taxation according to ability to pay, not primarily whether you are Scots, Welsh or English; and citizenship open to all, that no citizen of Britain should ever be seen as being a foreigner in Britain. And while the SNP would divide Scottish families between citizens and foreigners, regulated by a department of external relations, we gain strength from the interaction of different cultures and are weaker without it.

For nationalists, of course, issues of national identity must take precedence over social justice.



But my view is that when Scots, Welsh and English people talk of the right to work, they do not distinguish between the rights of someone unemployed in Cowdenbeath, Caerphilly or Coventry. Pride in being Scots, English and Welsh does not require a denial of being British.

America is, of course, a multicultural, multi-ethnic state. But to become the first successful multinational country Britain will need not only unifying ideas of citizenship, but the new constitution we propose.

Much remains to be done and we are talking not just about what Britain is but what Britain can become — new parliaments are complemented by the bill of rights, and freedom of information, a fundamental reform of the House of Lords, and the renewal of local government bringing it

closer to the people. These major reforms are not just protections for the individual against the state. They forge a new relationship between individuals, their communities and government in which the individual is enhanced by membership of their community, and the state enables and empowers rather than controls or directs.

The case for Britain is straightforward — that we achieve more working together than working apart, that solidarity, the shared endeavour of working and co-operating together, not separation, is the ideal worth celebrating, and that the future in a global economy lies in a new pluralism and a mature patriotism which recognises the contribution all make to the common good.

Gordon Brown is Chancellor of the Exchequer.

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**The Guardian**  
Thursday November 12 1998  
Edition Number 47333  
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER  
Tel No: 0171-278 2332  
Fax No: 0171-837 4530  
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk  
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

# Fast-track for debt relief

Act now to help the poorest

IT TAKES one catastrophe to remind the world of another. The devastating impact of Hurricane Mitch on the already poverty-stricken people of Central America has had one potential benefit. Its fast-action onslaught on the houses, the fields, the roads, the bridges, and the economic livelihood of the families of those who survived it has alerted donors in the richest countries to the slow-motion disaster that was already eroding their chances of a life of dignity. Their debt burden condemns the poorest countries to a future with insufficient schools, hospitals, and other basic welfare provision as government budgets became skewed towards satisfying creditors first.

Six months ago the Guardian launched its campaign against the "New Slavery" and joined forces with the coalition Jubilee 2000 in calling on creditor nations to write off the debts of the poorest nations by the start of the next millennium. Honduras and Nicaragua, the two countries hardest hit by Hurricane Mitch, were on the list. Indeed, Nicaragua was something of a negative star. At \$200 per person it has the world's highest level of per capita debt.

Thanks largely to Gordon Brown, Britain's record on softening the debt burden has been better than most of the Group of Seven. He has argued that countries recovering from civil war, the "post-conflict nations", should get special terms. Nevertheless, the Birmingham G7 summit this year produced less than we and the Jubilee

2000 coalition hoped. In August, with 500 days before the next millennium, we reported that only six countries have started to receive the limited relief available under the World Bank's heavily-indebted poor countries initiative, known as HIPC.

So it is welcome that Mr Brown is now suggesting that the creditors recognise a category of "post-catastrophe countries" which would get fast-track relief. It is also good that Clare Short has joined him in the new initiative, thereby repudiating her own rash comments that debt relief is "irrelevant" to today's immediate crisis. In Yes, Minister legese she may be right, but it sends the wrong message to the thousands of people who are thinking of responding to the charities' hurricane emergency appeal. If they feel their donations go straight back as interest payments to foreign governments or banks, they may hesitate.

In spite of its new announcements, the Government has a long way to go. Unlike France, which has written off the debt owed to it by Honduras and Nicaragua, and Cuba, which has written off Nicaragua's debt, Britain's proposed moratorium for Honduras and Nicaragua is only debt postponement, not debt reduction. The Government's talk of a trust fund into which Britain and other governments can pay money to help the Central Americans meet their obligations is only an accounting device to avoid having to write the debts off. What is needed now is a special creditors' conference on Honduras and Nicaragua which can take up the idea for a "human development window" to be incorporated within HIPC. Initially proposed by Tanzania and Oxfam International for all high-debt countries, it would call for debt cancellation with the requirement that every pound forgiven should be matched by at least 85 pence spent by the debtor government on poverty reduction,

whether that means extra schools, housing, or hospitals. It would create a kind of benign structural adjustment to replace the IMF's earlier programmes which required draconian cuts in government spending and have thrown millions of people in the poorest countries into even greater poverty. If such a special conference for Central America could later be matched by others for the rest of the HIPC countries, Hurricane Mitch might be seen as a turning-point for good.

## Appropriate move

Blair and Ashdown chart the future

AS A piece of writing yesterday's Joint Statement by the Rt Hon Tony Blair MP and Rt Hon Paddy Ashdown MP is a slightly bland read — but two sentences eventually leap out. The first brings the news that the Labour-Lib Dem committee which had previously confined itself to constitutional matters will now discuss much more: perhaps Europe, pensions, education, health and welfare. The second is a declaration that "Our two parties will continue to offer different choices to the British people in the ballot box whenever the appropriate opportunity arises." The emphasis is ours, but this phrase is either the result of some sloppy drafting or a highly significant hint that Messrs Blair and Ashdown can conceive of moments when it will not be appropriate for the two parties to offer different choices at the ballot box. That could mean cross-party coalitions in referendum campaigns or even electoral pacts — an epochal development in British politics. Or it might mean nothing at all: the document goes on to insist that there should be no narrowing of the choices available to British voters.

Even on the weaker reading of the docu-

ment, it marks a major breakthrough. Through its programme of constitutional reform, the Government is already reshaping the landscape of political life. Now Labour and the Liberal Democrats are changing it some more. They are looking forward to the world after the Jenkins Report, a world of proportional representation in which parties have to work with, not against, each other. If the talks between Jack Cunningham and Alan Beith are substantial, they might represent the overturn of a new era of coalition government.

Tribalists on both sides will object. Lib Dems want more than "consultation" in return for the inevitable blurring of identity that comes with co-operation; many of them already believe Paddy Ashdown has become far too cosy with the PM. But their leader is right: Lib Dems now have a chance to influence questions they have merely banded on about for a half century. Labourites need have no fear either. Yesterday's move requires no great sacrifice by the Government, but it does enable the Prime Minister to cast himself as an inclusive figure, able to transcend the old party lines. And, as the two men promise, co-operation between them makes the Conservatives ever more marginal, with "the ascendancy of progressive politics" ever more a reality. The 21st might be the "century of the radicals" after all.

## Pulp fictions

Hail a censor with doubts

WHEN James Ferman speaks, it is worth listening. He has been director of the British Board of Film Classification, in effect censor-in-chief, since 1975, treading an impossible line between those who would censor every-

thing and those who would censor nothing. His signature is one of the best known in Britain, but his voice isn't: he has preferred to stay in the background, even when subjected to furious assaults by the pro-censorship lobby over films such as Crash and Natural Born Killers. So when he did speak at a conference on drug dependence on Tuesday, appearing to apologise for not having cut Quentin Tarantino's Pulp Fiction, it made front-page news and caused those old allies, Mary Whitehouse and the Daily Mail, to claim they had been right all along.

The Mail reported that he had made the "damning admission" that Pulp Fiction glamorised drug taking and encouraged the use of heroin. What he actually said at the conference was less clear-cut: "We didn't cut the film, and I don't know, looking back, whether that was a good idea." He also made the aesthetic point that has underpinned his tenure: "With a film of that quality, there's not a lot you want to do."

Ferman was honestly raising his doubts, wondering what the impact of such films was. It is a far cry from the certainties of the moralists who draw easy connections between screen and street. Does Pulp Fiction make you inject heroin? Does Natural Born Killers encourage mass murder? The prevalence of heroin use and murder makes it plausible. On the other hand, Crash does not appear to have produced a spate of vehicular vice. In truth, no one can be sure how what we see affects what we do: we have to rely on instinct, which is what Ferman has done on a non-dogmatic, film-by-film basis. The absolutists on both sides should be treated with suspicion and asked for their evidence. Ferman retires in January and has already advised his successor, Robin Duval, to get a flak jacket. We wish him a happy retirement and look forward to further reflections on a quarter-century spent balancing art and life.

## Letters to the Editor

### More information than we require

THE newspaper revelations of the sexual dispositions of politicians infringe my right not to know. There are things about other individuals which I, in common with many people, do not wish to be told. Prof Michael Dummett, Oxford.

THANKS for the most recent sordid revelations of a public figure. I have always found this person unsympathetic but hitherto felt it unsound to admit it. It is easy to blame absent fathers or a public school education for this sort of unnatural behaviour, but at St Katharine Hamnett is responsible for her own political views (Young, hip... and Tony, G2, November 10). James Bate, Brussels.

AS A cyclist I usually hate wheels, but I loved Nicholas Lezard's charming account of driving a white van (November 9). We hired one when we moved here and inadvertently signed up for a life-changing experience. The traffic in central London partied like the Red Sea. The white van wore its dents and bashes like trophies. I would especially recommend a paint job featuring the name of a hire company which sounds as if it could be uninsured. Lynne Curry, Clevedon, Somerset.

THANKS for confirming my sanity. I really was being persecuted by white vans while cycling to work this summer. Maria Kilcoyne, London.

FOR both Hungary and Estonia you point out the difficulties involved in translating documents for them if they joined the EU (The six trying for entry, November 9). But the sole language which is related to these two is already represented in the Union. Finnish is already translated without any problems. George Forth, London.

IS IT a symbol of European integration that the French finance minister has a German family name (Dominique Strauss-Kahn), and his German counterpart a French one (Otmar Lafontaine)? Michael Thompson, Sutton, Surrey.

FROM where I sit I can see where Jim Lawes is coming from (Letters, November 10). Nevertheless, he must realise that we are living in the real world, and the bottom line is that "communication" is the name of the game at this moment in time. Unless and until he is prepared to take this on board, and to take a pro-active stance with regard to this and all other matters within his remit, I am afraid he will be left on the platform when the information revolution takes off. R Walker, Greenford, Middx.

THINK Jim Lawes overheard some joined-up thinking. Tony Mitchell, Bedford.

# Rhodri, Ken and Tony

ON Monday, Labour's Welsh executive put off a decision on how to elect a successor to Ron Davies on the flimsy basis that it was still too early to probe the "unity ticket", led by Alun Michael, to avoid "a damaging and divisive election" (Millbank struggles to keep control, November 10).

As the Tories in Wales have just demonstrated, a leadership election is no such thing. Around Wales, people are astounded at the ineptness of the executive's handling of this matter and Labour supporters are aghast at the damage the executive is inflicting on the party's chances next May. A One Person One Vote election is now essential to prove that the decision on Labour's Welsh leader is made in Wales and not in Millbank or 10 Downing Street. Without such proof, Welsh voters will next May witness devolution as a charade.

Moreover, an election offers a great opportunity to raise awareness throughout Wales of how this new exciting political institution could impact on our daily lives. If Labour politicians fail to convince the electorate on this crucial aspect then they can expect an even more sceptical response than in the referendum last year. Why cannot Wales be allowed to follow the example of T Blair, J Prescott and M Beckett in 1994 when hustings were held around the country and the needs and great issues

of our nation were debated in a comradely way to the benefit of our country and the credit of the Labour Party? Robert Jones, Caerphilly.

WALES Labour Party is flying in the face of our traditional voters in bending to the opinion of Millbank Towers and the Labour hierarchy, whose aim seems to be to stop Rhodri Morgan at all costs. Many of us who have supported the party even when the leadership has made decisions which were sometimes almost impossible to defend are now seriously contemplating our position.

If the leader of the new assembly is to be imposed on us by the spin doctors, I believe we will lose many loyal and hard-working members who have delivered the Labour vote over and over again in Wales. Try asking the modernists in Millbank to go out and knock on doors during the next election campaign. Sharon Mehinagic, Godrengraig Ward Labour Party, Ystalyfera.

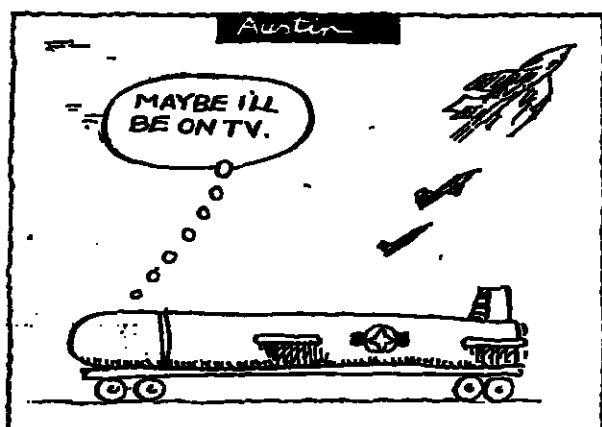
IF the politics personified by the likes of Ken Livingstone and Pete Willsman are the answer, the question must be a very silly one. Nevertheless, their views do enjoy a considerable body of support within the Labour Party. For the party leadership to create institutional mechanisms to deny such people even the

chance of becoming Labour candidates demonstrates clearly the fault line within the Labour Party. Tony Blair was elected to the party leadership in 1994 to carry forward such reforms as OMOV. For him to allow party officials to use a pick-and-mix of systems to achieve a desired outcome, some of which owe more to the time when Willsman et al were running the party, is indeed an unedifying spectacle.

And for all Willsman's recent diatribes against PR, when are people with his views going to see that a more proportional system would allow them to leave Labour and stand openly and honestly on their own policies? Richard Hall, Ex-Labour Party member, Reading.

LABOUR's leadership cannot devolve constitutional power on the one hand and seek to retain centralised control within the Labour Party on the other. Rhodri Morgan and Ken Livingstone should have the right to put their names forward in One Member One Vote ballots of the Welsh or London Labour Party members. The introduction of a waiting panel in London until there is one purpose only — to prevent London Labour Party members from having a fair chance by excluding Livingstone from the contest. Liz Davies, London.

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## Debt policy slips on a banana skin

THE destruction of banana plantations by Hurricane Mitch (Britain backs hold on debt, November 11) has brought into sharp relief the contradictions of the neo-liberal model of development. In a region where not enough food is produced for its inhabitants, huge enclosures in Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama are owned by US banana producers which repatriate the lion's share of their profits back to the US.

Honduran workers often endure appalling conditions and are paid so little they can barely survive. Attempts to form unions have often been met with sackings, even violence.

What hard currency the banana companies do pay is used to service a growing and unpayable foreign debt to Western banks, the net result

being that the Central Americans gain virtually nothing. Tony Blair's government, including Clare Short, remain wedded to this economic orthodoxy. If the destruction wreaked by Hurricane Mitch does nothing more than persuade them that the prevailing economic system is unjust, inequitable and unworkable, then even this appalling disaster may have done some good. Bert Schouwenaar, Regional organiser, GMB general union.

THE hurricane appeal has a target of £7 million — about £1 million less than the National Lottery's regular Saturday jackpot. Perhaps there should now be a campaign to persuade Lottery punters to divert their money. Lawrence Salt, Exeter, Devon.

## Think local

SADLY the long-awaited Euro-Keycard as a green stamp to unemployment (Analysis, November 10) is likely to increase the number out of work. Its emphasis on motorways and high-speed trains will mostly accelerate the spread of the cheapest products and services from the already wealthy sections of the EU and further undermine local economies throughout the rest of Europe. The pricing of everything in euros, plus ever fewer trade barriers will reinforce this trend.

Those left in work will buy cheaper products from further afield, but pay dearly in terms of local jobs and social decline. To compensate for such increasing regional disparities and rising joblessness would, it has been calculated, require

a three to four-fold increase in the present EU budget. Hardly a political winner in a climate where even the normally generous Germans want to trim their EU donations.

What is required is Euro-reflection with an environmental and local emphasis. Rebuilding national public transport systems, massive energy conservation schemes, a transfer to more renewable energy and the wholesale improvement of homes, schools, hospitals, sewers and the rest of our crumbling infrastructure. This would result in a huge increase in local employment and would keep money recycling within communities. Providing ever faster links between countries will merely hasten environmental damage and turn out to be a job killer, rather than creator. Colin Hines, East Twickenham, Middx.

## Next stop...

IF the name Waterloo offends some French people, why not change it to Gariyco (Letters, November 7, 9, 10, 11)? This place of antique Edinburgh slang would be a strong reminder of the aid alliance between Scotland and France. Mike Woolf, London.

THE French refer to the Battle of Waterloo as La Bataille de La Belle Alliance (after a pub near the battlefield). How about Beautiful Friendship Station? D Brooks, London.

RENAME Waterloo Station? Where would Terry meet Julie every Friday night? Paul Vann, Bedford.

## Jolly Batman

WHILE Batman was in the limelight as a grim vigilante (Obituary, Bob Kane, November 7) the introduction of Robin after only one year of publication transformed him into an avuncular lawman. Batman's adventures during the early 1960s were in fact jolly affairs, in contrast to the militaristic and bloodthirsty crusades of his fellow superheroes.

You are also wrong in suggesting that Batman's "monkish coexistence with Robin" was seen as "sinister" during the early years. The Dynamic Duo's relationship was, however, condemned as a homoerotic fantasy during the McCarthyite 1950s, a crucial turn of events which you neglect to mention.

Finally, with all due credit

to Kane, Batman's creator, it is misleading to state that he "learned successfully to share his creation with many other artists". Kane consistently played down the contributions of his art assistant, Jerry Robinson, the writer, Gardner Fox, and, most crucially, Batman's co-creator, Bill Finger — not Fingers — without whom this appealing disaster never have become the cultural icon he is today. Will Brooker, Tom Hopkinson Centre for Media Research, Cardiff University.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used. Please provide a reference to the relevant article.

## Complaints from the Press Commission and the press baron

POLLY Tynbee again demonstrates that customary charm which comes from being wrong on almost every point (Curb the red tops, November 11). The Press Complaints Commission is not "appointed" by the press. Seven of its members are senior editors (one from the Guardian Media Group); but nine are lay members, appointed by an independent appointments commission — made up of four lay members, and one press representative (a distinguished former chairman of the Guardian Media Group).

There is a gaping hole in her argument in favour of a privacy law. Why should someone who fails to use the quick, free and confidential service offered by the PCC be willing to use the time-consuming, expensive and very public procedures of a court of law with its attendant publicity circus and very uncertain return?

A privacy law would be as practically useless as it would be damaging to a free press. The vast majority of people — thousands of whom complain to us every year — would be unable to afford what

would rapidly become a tool for the elite to gag the press. It would, in fact, have made some of the Guardian's most famous investigations quite impossible.

As for a statutory Press Commission with powers to "call in articles" that sounds to me suspiciously like an instrument of state censorship — and one, incidentally, the courts would probably strike down anyway as inimical to freedom of expression. Lord Wakeham, Chairman, Press Complaints Commission.

IF the "over-mighty press baron" Polly Tynbee refers to is Rupert Murdoch, she accuses him of successfully intimidating the Government into not introducing a privacy law, a competition law and media ownership regulation. This is hysterical nonsense. In Britain the only industry that is more heavily regulated than media is the defence industry. There are more than fifty acts that impact on media in different ways, including measures on privacy, competition and ownership; and they are regularly updated.

News International only publishes two daily newspapers — of the 10 national and 90 regional titles available. News International's share in terms of sales is 20 per cent. It doesn't "own" 41 per cent of newspaper readership; 41 per cent of adults choose to read our newspapers because they like them. And nearly 40 per cent of Guardian and Observer readers choose to read our newspapers as well. Jane Reed, Director, Corporate Affairs, News International.

## Lessons on student fees and school contracts

THE Young Fabians might argue for more fees but their arguments are flawed and their logic bewildering (HE more fees please, November 10). In an era when students are crippled by hardship and many institutions are crippled by under-funding, no one seriously believes that differential fees are the answer.

Allowing institutions to levy top-up fees will create a two-tier, elitist market for HE and up-front charges will cripple students who lack immediate access to funds. The proposal that poorer students be given bursaries amounts to the pauperisation of HE provision, where "poor" students are patronised by charity and big business. Only the state can guarantee access. Worst of all, there is no understanding that the real pressure in post-16 learning doesn't lie with traditional universities. FE colleges and FE students need real resources. Top-up fees don't even address the problem. We

must never accept top-up fees because our system of learning is not a market in the hands of the few but a community in the hands of all. Patrick Diamond, National chair, Labour Students.

THE model contract included in the Government's guidance on home-school agreements seems unequal (Children of 5 face school contracts, November 11). Children sign six specific "I will" clauses while the teacher signs vague requirements to "encourage" and "inform". Schools should be teaching their pupils to be sure that any contract they sign gives an appropriate degree of mutual benefit. In the case of the home-school agreement perhaps teachers as well as pupils should sign up to "I will walk inside the building" and "I will be friendly". Peter Ogborn, Bournemouth.

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Svetlana Beriosova

# Bringing poetry to motion

**S**VETLANA BERIOSOVA, who has died of cancer aged 66, was a Lithuanian-born, Russian-trained British ballerina whose career with the Royal Ballet paradoxically came to epitomise some of the greatest virtues of our own national style.

She was truly a child of the ballet, growing up in that cosmopolitan world of the itinerant Ballet Russe companies of the 1930s inhabited by her father, the dancer and ballet master the late Nicholas Beriosov. Beriosov, born in Kaunas, Lithuania, of Russian parentage, eventually settled there and married his first wife, Maria. Their daughter Svetlana was born in Kaunas but had no memories of her birthplace as, when she was three years old, her father, known to the ballet world as Poppa, was invited to join René Blum's company in Paris where, soon after, his wife and daughter joined him.

During some tours of the company they remained in Paris, but the young Svetlana travelled widely in Europe with her parents and grew up speaking both Russian and French with equal fluency. It was not until they came to England in 1936 that she learned — she claimed with the greatest difficulty — to speak English, which she was to master so perfectly.

In 1939 the René Blum company accepted an invitation to tour the United States and when war broke out Beriosov sent for Maria and Svetlana to join him. Somehow they managed to get from Paris to Genoa and boarded the last refugee-bearing ship to leave Europe.

From 1940 to 1947 the Beriosovs remained in America, mother and child staying in New York while father was on tour. Svetlana started

school and although she had never been forced into becoming a dancer, despite having lessons from her father, she was now determined that she would become one. Her father placed her, at the age of 10, in the school of Anatole Wilzak and Ludmila Schollar, both of whom had danced for Diaghilev and become two of the most celebrated teachers of their day.

Svetlana's mother had died shortly after their arrival in New York and she was to find in these teachers, especially Schollar, sympathetic friends and mentors to sustain her during Poppa's absences and until he married again.

Beriosova's career can be dated from 1941 when she appeared with Massine's Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo as Clara in *The Nutcracker* and as the girl with the skipping rope in *Le Beau Danube*. She received her first printed reviews when she appeared in 1947 with the Ottawa Ballet Company, which was virtually a school performance but of exceptional quality. She danced the Snow Queen and the Sugar Plum Fairy in a full length production of *The Nutcracker*, partnered by another



Graceful princess ... as Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*

guest from the Wilzak-Schollar School, Nicholas Polajenko.

In the same year, Poppa was invited to join the newly formed company of the Marquis de Cuevas in Monte Carlo and Svetlana, with her stepmother Lyene, travelled with him. Svetlana, now 15, joined the corps de ballet. This was her first professional engagement and her name appears in reports about the company alongside those of Marjorie Tallichet, Yvonne Patterson, Edward Caton and William Dollar. Dancing with the troupe she was able to study the Giselle of the great French ballerina Yvette Chauvire and she also worked with Serge Lifar who was ballet master and choreographer to the company.

Poppa's next move was to be the decisive one for Svetlana. He came to England to join the newly formed Metropolitan Ballet and the dance press remarked that "among the newcomers Svetlana Beriosova, Poul Gault, and Erik Bruhn are interesting". Three were to become very much more than that.

With Metropolitan Ballet, Beriosova created roles in ballets by John Taras — his youthful, ever popular *Designs with Strings* and Frank Staff, and danced Odette in *Swan Lake* and the second act of *Giselle*. A two-week season at the Scala Theatre in London in June 1948 established Beriosova's reputation as a true ballerina in the making and it was during this season that Dame Ninette de Valois saw Svetlana and noted "that such poetry of emotion and feeling was rare in one so young ... I hoped so much that one day she would be with us".

That day came early in 1950 when de Valois (who would never have "poached" a dancer from another company)

heard that Metropolitan Ballet had folded and immediately invited Beriosova to join the Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet. This she did and until she retired in 1975 she fulfilled all the promise of those early years through a repertory that encompassed all the great classical roles, creations for Ashton, Howard, Cranko, and MacMillan, stagings by Nijinska and Nureyev, ballets by Fokine, Balanchine, and Tudor.

With the Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet she shared ballerina status with the brilliant young Australian Elaine Field, their styles so different, yet so complementary. From this period Beriosova is remembered as the Bride in André Howard's masterpiece *La Fête éternelle* and a spirited and delightful Swanilda in *Coppélia*. She transferred to the company at Covent Garden in 1952, progressing quickly to principal status. The year 1954, for instance, saw her first performances there as Odette-Odile and the Princess Aurora and also as the beautiful Tsarevna in Fokine's *The Firebird*, a role that perfectly suited her Russian beauty and temperament.

She created the role of Princess Belle Rose in Cranko's *The Prince of the Pagodas* and the title role in his *Antigone*. She created the Fairy in Kenneth MacMillan's *Le Balser de la Fée* and was principal dancer in his *Diary for a Madman*. A creation remembered with special affection was the title role in Ashton's short-lived but wonderful realisation of Stravinsky's *Persephone* in which, rare accomplishment for a ballerina, she was able to undertake, speaking in impeccable French, the spoken role as well as the dancing one.

In the two ballets by Bronislava Nijinska which Ashton



Svetlana Beriosova ... as the Tsarina in *Anastasia*, one of her last, great roles

PHOTOGRAPH DOMING

brought into the Royal Ballet repertory, Beriosova was first the sophisticated Hostess in *Les Biches* and then the Bride in the Russian wedding ritual of *Les Noce*. Working with Nijinska and conversing with her in Russian was one of the great pleasures of Beriosova's entire career.

Unlike many ballerinas who, once they withdrew from the demanding classical roles move into purely mime roles, Svetlana Beriosova was

unique in having made for her two characters which allowed her to be her own age, two beautiful, mature women. Ashton saw the possibility of this transition when he choreographed for her the tender, loving and elegant Lady Elgar in *Enigma Variations* and MacMillan followed this with his portrait of the Tsarina in *Anastasia* — the last great and beautiful creation of a great and beautiful career.

Beriosova's qualities as a dancer were best summed up by Sarah Woodcock, who wrote of her: "She enshrined the finest qualities of the great classical dancer, with her natural aristocracy, lyrical flow, and masterly phrasing complemented by an exceptional musicality — but it was also her warmth, charm, and humanity that enslaved audiences."

She enslaved also the younger dancers who learned from her coaching and her example. It was tragic that this coaching career should have been cut so cruelly short. In 1959 she married Mohammed Masud Khan; the marriage was dissolved 15 years later, and he predeceased her.

Mary Clarke

Svetlana Beriosova, ballet dancer, born September 24, 1932; died November 10, 1998

## A Country Diary

**THE BURREN:** Poor Nellie, Jo and Sheila Burn's donkey, has died, aged approximately 35. I wrote some years ago about Nellie's nocturnal (3am) habit of braying for her few slices of bread. We miss Nellie now when we walk that arm of land, the Rine, which juts out into the Bay. Although it is opposite our house, we have a 15-minute walk by road to reach its beginning. We tried, at low tide, to walk seaweed from our house but I fell in and my boots filled with mud. So life on the Rine has changed. I am assured that there is to be a new donkey foal to join the grazing cattle. This, however, is not the only change. Almost two decades ago it had level dunes, grassed and flower strewn, with its limestone pavements walkable at the ebb and between it

and the coast and small mudflats for waders. Over the years the mighty Atlantic waves have breached the dunes in places, flinging boulders, rocks and stones into the gaps. Now there are further breaches, some dunes falling away to make half-moons of golden sand, small crescent beaches edged always by the great limestone cliffs where, swaying in tidal moods, are cord-like seaweed (*chorda filum*), delicate white carrageen (*chondrus crispus*), together with huge bunches of brown bladderweed. Between the Rine and the coast the sandy mudflat, the feeding ground for waders, has increased threefold. As Spencer wrote: "The ever whirling wheel of change, which all mortal things doth sway."

SARAH POYNTZ

## Peter Cotes

# Sage of the stage

**P**ETER Cotes, who has died aged 86, was an actor, director and manager for most of the century. He was also one of the most impassioned exponents of the post-war group theatre movement which believed that exploitation of an actor's personality could ruin theatre. Since the pre-subsidy West End drew most of its audiences through box-office names, Cotes's defiance made its mark.

"Stars as stars," he wrote in his *No Star Nonsense* (1949) "must be swept right out of the theatre, whose only salvation lies in the group system." He had just married one of the most magnetically compelling actresses on the London stage, Joan Miller, and no artistic director ever had a more supportive wife.

Together they pursued in converted London halls, in the provinces including tours of the Welsh coalfields — the group theatre policy of a company dedicated to authors rather than actors. Miller's acting perhaps underlined a fallacy in group theatre thinking. As Spencer wrote: "The ever whirling wheel of change, which all mortal things doth sway."

The first great hit was Elsa Shelley's American play, *Pick-Up Girl* (1946). Denied a licence by the censor until that inveterate player, Queen Mary the Queen Mother, had seen it at Notting Hill's New Lindsey Theatre Club, the play went on to flourish in the West End. Other group theatre productions included plays by J.B. Priestley, Clifford Odets, Ibsen — with Donald Wolfit as the Master Builder — O'Neill's *Anna Christie*, Strindberg's *Miss Julie* (which transferred to London after a year at the Library Theatre, Manchester) and, at the New Belton in Kensington, Lillian Hellman's long-banned drama, *The Children's Hour*.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Cotes directed feature films and BBC and TV television drama — he was senior drama producer for Associated Rediffusion TV — but the theatre was his lifeblood.

He was the eldest son of two stage players who had run a company in South Africa. He was born Sydney Boulting in Maidenhead and his twin brothers were film-makers John and Roy Boulting. His career began at the age of four when he was handed over the



Peter Cotes ... firm advocate of group theatre productions

footlights of the Portsmouth Hippodrome with a bouquet for Vesta Tilley, the queen of male impersonators. Later he impersonated Tilley, and Albert Chevalier's Little Nipper — in cloth cap and cockney pearl-buttoned suit — while entertaining wounded troops in hospital during the first world war. With maternal encouragement he became a regular theatregoer, but preferred to perform.

After Italia Conti's drama school and seasons in *Peter Pan* as John or Slightly — a play he longed all his days to direct in the way he believed J.M. Barrie would have wanted — he understudied John Mills in *Cavalcade* (Drury Lane) and Nelson Keys in *Raw Bells* (London Hippodrome) in the 1930s. He also appeared in films, cabaret, revue and variety. Invited out of the war in 1941, Cotes went into rep, a revival of *Peter Pan* as Starkey, and in 1945 turned to direction.

Influenced by the writings of Stanislavsky and by London visits of Dublin's Abbey theatre and Howard Curnham's New York Theatre Group, Cotes began to dream of his own troupe. At the New Lindsey, Notting Hill Gate, in 1946 he staged Priestley's *The Long Mirror* and *Pick-Up Girl*.

The Lord Chamberlain turned a blind eye to club theatres, but if this play was to transfer to the West End, Cotes had to delete "miscarriage", "abortion" and "syphilis" from the dialogue along with the line: "They were both wearing nothing."

The American author refused all cuts. When the censor went to see the play after Queen Mary's visit, he agreed that it took juvenile sex and venereal disease seriously, and licensed it. The production, with no ostensible stars, moved in triumph to the Prince of Wales and then to the Casino.

Cotes despised Hugh Beaumont, head of H.M. Tennant Ltd, the West End's leading manager, but he and Joan Miller accepted an offer from Beaumont respectively to direct and appear in an American play, *Deep Are the Roots* (Wyndham's 1947).

They left before it opened because the leading man demanded a change of director and Beaumont acceded. When Miller starred in another Tennant production, Wynyard Browne's *Dark Summer* (Lyric Hammersmith and St Martin's) later that season, she fell ill after 70-odd performances. Neither she nor Cotes worked again for Beaumont.

**A**MONG Cotes's other group theatre productions was F.T. Tennant's *Jesse's A Pin To See The Peep Show* (New Belton, 1951) of which the critic Kenneth Tynan wrote in adulterous terms to Miller (as the murderer), adding that he had delighted in Cotes's production.

After staging Dalton Trumbo's *The Biggest Thief in Town* (Duchess, 1951) Cotes directed the original production of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* (Ambassadors,

1952). It is possibly with that play that he won his reputation as a litigant, scourge of critics, managers and agents whom he would play with the threat or reality of writs, injunctions and solicitors' letters.

When Peter Saunders, *The Mousetrap*'s producer realised his little thriller might run for ever, he tried to buy out Cotes's 15 per cent interest. Cotes stood his ground, went to law and won, thus achieving, from his part in the staging of the world's longest-running play, a life pension. Not that he ever went back to see it, as directors normally do, or to direct the numerous changes of cast. Nor did he care to talk about it: the stars of the other West End productions were Mel Dinell's drama, *The Man* (Her Majesty's, 1952, St Martin's, 1953), Ted Willis's *Hot Summer Night* (New, 1958), Ernest Borneman's *Girl on the Highway* (Prince's, 1959), *The Impossible Years* (Cambridge, 1968), Rodney Ackland's *The Old Ladies* (Westminster and Duchess, 1968) and *Look No Hands!* (Strand, 1971).

Cotes wrote several books after *No Star Nonsense*. They included *Handbook for the Amateur Theatre* (1957), *The Little Fellow* (1965), a biography of Chaplin written in collaboration with Thelma Niklaus, *George Robey* (1970), *J.P. The Man Called Misch* (a biography of J.P. Mischelid) and *Thinking Aloud: Fragments of Autobiography* (1993).

He also brought a long, informed memory, warm feeling and insight into obituary notices for the daily papers (mainly the one he loved to call the *Granadine*) during his last, lonely and sometimes painful years, but he never lost interest in the theatre.

Peter Cotes was twice married, firstly to Wynyard Browne (marriage dissolved) and secondly to Joan Miller who died in 1968.

**Eric Shorter**  
Peter Cotes (Sydney Boulting), actor, director and manager, born March 18, 1912; died November 10, 1998

## Death Notices

**COTES, Peter**, of Chipping Norton on 10th November, peacefully at home, aged 86. Memorial service to be arranged. Enquiries to Bernice Hartley 0171 402 3166.

**MICROSE, Paul** (Richard), please pray for the repose of the soul of Paul Richard MICROSE, aged 69, who died on 8th November 1998 at home at Bowyer, North York. Requiem Mass on Monday 16th November at 1.30pm at St. Michael's Church, Westgate, Stratford, followed by private interment. Family flowers only. Donations if desired may be made to Little Church of the Holy Spirit. A Memorial Service in London will be arranged later. Requested in Place

**In Memoriam**  
TWENTY-EIGHT years gone. But still a joy. Love Ken

to place your obituary notice telephone 0171 713 4507 or fax 0171 713 4507 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri

## Birthdays

Nadia Comaneci, gymnastic champion, 37; Mariella Frostrup, journalist and broadcaster, 36; Dr. William Hayes, physician, president, St John's College, Oxford, 68; Joe Hendron, former SDLP MP, 65; Bob Holness, TV presenter, 70; Kim Hunter, film actress, 76; Christina Lyon,

professor of law, Liverpool University, 46; Sir Peter Lloyd, Conservative MP, 61; Jennifer Page, chief executive, New Millennium Experience, 54; Stefanie Powers, actress, 55; Christopher Silvester, writer, 39; The Rev Dr Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans, 87; Grover Washington Jr., jazz musician, 55; Neil Young, rock singer and guitarist, 52.

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

**IN THE Arts Diary**, Page 10, November 7, the final item about the London Film Festival gala opening quoted the festival director, Adrian Woodson, describing Brenda Blethyn, one of the stars of *Little Voice*, as that "old boiler". In fact, Mr Woodson said nothing of the kind. It was the film's director, Mark Herman, who jokingly called her an "old banger". Apologies to all concerned.

**IN OUR obituary of Lord Hunt of Llanfairwaterine**, Page 15, November 9, we said he took the title of his baronetcy from his home village in Radnorshire. He was a baron, not a baronet. Llanfair Waterine is in Shropshire, not Radnorshire.

**READERS** were confused by conflicting references to Niall Ferguson, as a Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford (G2, Page 4, November 9), and Niall Ferguson, fellow and tutor in modern history at Jesus College, Cambridge (The Guardian Weekend, November 7). They are the same person. He is a fellow of Jesus College, Oxford.

**IN A European football round-up**, Page 5, November 9, we misspelled the first name of the football coach, Stuart Baxter. Sorry. In the Third Division round-up on Page 4,

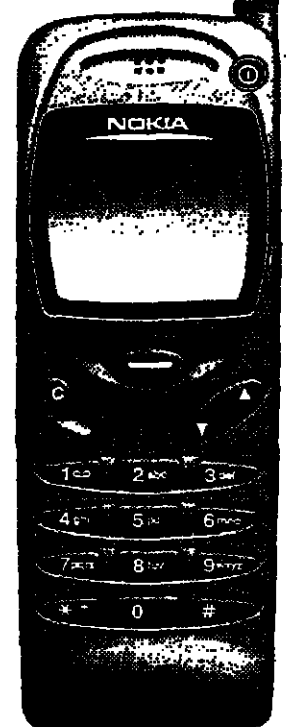
we said Leo Fortune-West, who helped Rotherham to victory against Scarborough, was on loan from Gillingham. That should have been Lincoln.

**IN A COLUMN**, Page 16, November 9, apropos the end of John Glenn's recent space flight, we said, "A solitary bag emerged from the shoot" (chute conjures a more appropriate picture).

**IN OUR obituary of Lord Alport**, Page 15, November 7, we referred to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. This should, of course, have been Royal Welch Fusiliers. The Regiment stuck to the spelling Welsh designation was granted in 1702. The War Office finally agreed to the spelling Welch in 1920 and in 1923 conceded that the private soldiers should be called Fusiliers.

It is the policy of the *Guardian* to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the *Guardian's* Editor by telephoning 0171 239 5599 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

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# Analysis Human rights law



Put the old lady  
out to grass?  
8

## Bringing home the basics

This week the European Convention on Human Rights is incorporated into British law. **Clare Dyer** asks what it will mean — for judges, courts and aggrieved citizens

**T**HREE days ago Britain at last got into step with the rest of the free world.

The Human Rights Act received the royal assent, giving citizens of this country a bill of rights of the kind taken for granted in every other Commonwealth country and virtually every other Western democracy.

The new act incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights into the law of the land. No longer will British citizens have to go through every stage of court process here ("exhaust their remedies," in the jargon) before undertaking the arduous journey to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in order to claim basic civil and political rights.

(The European Court of Justice is an entirely separate body applying European Union law.) From 2000, when the act comes into force, Britons will be able to exercise their rights at home.

The convention was drawn up in the aftermath of the atrocities committed during the second world war; it aimed to safeguard democracy and ensure that dictatorship would never again get a foothold. Britain was the first country to ratify it in 1951.

indeed its final text was drafted largely by two British government lawyers.

Yet while the convention became part of the law of other European countries, enforceable in their courts, successive British governments refused to import this alien code. For years the standard argument was that human rights were already protected under domestic law.

A flood of successful claims over the years at Strasbourg demolished it. Deficiencies in the protection of rights were also brought out by British court decisions. The failure of the case brought over photographs of the actor Gordon Kaye snatched while lying in his hospital bed exposed the paltry protection for privacy offered by English law.

Unlike most other democracies, we have never had a rights-based culture. Under our laws, anything is permitted unless specifically prohibited.

Parliament has traditionally been omnipotent, able to pass any law it wants, with no concern for the interests of minorities.

Parliamentary sovereignty will be preserved under the Human Rights Act. To the relief of the judges, they will not be drawn into political controversy by being asked — as judges are in Canada — to strike down laws voted by the people's elected representatives. If a statute is unclear, judges will have to interpret it

so as to conform to the convention. But if the meaning is clear, even if it breaches the convention, the judges will have to follow it. They will be limited to declaring it "incompatible." Parliament will then be able to amend it through a fast-track procedure. Judges will, in contrast, be able to override most secondary legislation, that is to say statutory instruments and regulations put out by government departments (these contain a great deal of the country's law).

The new act guarantees the 12 basic rights and freedoms enshrined in the convention: right to life; freedom from torture or inhuman and degrading treatment; slavery; arbitrary arrest and detention; right to a fair trial; freedom from retrospective penalties; right to privacy and family life; freedom of religion, expression and association; right to marry and found a family; and freedom from discrimination. It also incorporates three rights added later: to education, peaceful enjoyment of property and free elections. People starting court cases will be able to invoke these rights against central or local government or other public bodies, including National Health Service trusts, the police, prison authorities or the judicial system itself — any court or tribunal, from magistrates to the House of Lords.

**B**UT not just yet. The implementation of the act is being delayed by 18 months or so to allow judges and magistrates to undergo a £5 million training programme. Time is also thought necessary to give public bodies time to audit their rules and practices to ensure that they comply with the convention.

In a recent briefing, the civil rights group Liberty highlighted 70 areas which public bodies will need to address if they are going to avoid litigation which invokes the act. The right to life will mean, for example, that police officers, who can now use "reasonable force" during violent struggles or arrests, will be limited to using force which is "absolutely necessary".

The right imposes a positive duty to preserve life, so the Prison Service may be required to take stronger measures to prevent suicides by inmates in jail.

Lawyers predict the Human Rights Act will be used most frequently in criminal cases. It's true that the right to a fair trial and the presumption of innocence guaranteed by the convention will come into play. Liberty expects the first challenges to focus on prob-



Britain and Strasbourg a troubled history

**Ulster killings**  
September 27, 1995  
The court in Strasbourg ruled that Britain violated the European Human Rights Convention over the SAS killings of the suspected IRA terrorists Michael Farrell, Sean Savage and Daniel McCann in 1988.

**1988 (above left)** Furious with the 10-9 verdict, the Major government threatened to withdraw Britain from the court's jurisdiction.

**12-year-old boy who was beaten with a garden cane could challenge domestic law sent the Conservatives into a spending furore. The boy and his father brought the case to Strasbourg after the crown court acquitted the stepfather in 1994 of assault.**

**Ernest Saunders**  
December 17, 1996  
The former Guinness chief (middle right) won his claim that his rights were violated during the 1990 Guinness fraud trial. Judges ruled that the use of interview transcripts by DIT inspectors breached Saunders's

**right to protection against self-incrimination, but rejected his compensation claims.**  
**Transsexuals**  
July 30, 1998  
By denying them new birth certificates as females, the Government had not breached

**the rights of two British transsexuals, the court ruled. The judges upheld the right to prevent Kristina Sheffield (above right) and Rachel Hamilton from marrying men, but the Government was repatriated for not reviewing national laws on transsexuals.**

lems with the disclosure of evidence by the prosecution, claims of public interest immunity by official witnesses, the use of informers and recent changes to the accused's right of silence. Evidence obtained by surveillance or other covert means may be rejected as a breach of the right to privacy.

This week the Home Office outlined proposals to target and freeze the assets of suspected criminals before they are convicted in court. The police would no longer have to prove such assets were proceeds of crime to the criminal standard of proof — "beyond reasonable doubt". Instead, the lesser civil standard of proof — "on the balance of probabilities" — would apply.

Liberty immediately condemned the Government's plans as a violation of the convention. Its director, John Wadham, said: "It's ironic to see the government proposing to violate the right to a fair trial, the presumption of innocence and the right to privacy when the ink has barely dried on the Human Rights Act."

That act will give judges much greater powers to conduct judicial review. This is

the route by which the public or other public bodies can challenge government decisions; at present judges' powers are limited. They cannot for example examine the merits of a decision, only look at whether it was fairly and properly reached. Many, if not most, challenges are doomed to fail because the judge cannot say the decision-making process was flawed. This makes it an uphill struggle for litigants, such as the three transsexuals trying this week to force a health authority to pay for sex change operations, or the Holloway prisoner who will go to the Court of Appeal today to fight a decision refusing her and her newborn baby a place in the prison's mother-and-baby unit.

In future, judges will have to look at the merits of decisions reached by officialdom. How, for example, will the right to life affect health authorities' virtually unchallengeable discretion under current law to use their resources as they see fit?

Ian Kennedy, professor of health law, policy and ethics at University College, London, believes healthcare rationing

will be one of the first issues targeted by lawyers once the act is in force. "The careful choreography in which the courts know the limits of what they can do and the legislature does everything else will have to be rewritten. The courts will have to find a new way of avoiding the issue or be thrust into one of the most difficult areas of healthcare — the unadmitted issue of rationing." He suggests that the Government or a bioethics commission could draw up criteria for resource allocation. "It would at least avoid the courts doing it without anything to go by."

Most of the rights in the convention are not absolute (torture is one exception). The state may legitimately interfere with most individual rights if this is done in pursuit of a legitimate aim. The restriction will have to be not merely desirable but "necessary in a democratic society", for example to prevent crime or safeguard national security. And any restriction on rights will have to be proportionate: no more than is needed to ensure the aim pursued.

Two rights may come into conflict. The right to privacy

often conflicts with the right to freedom of expression. How will the courts decide between them? Case law built up over nearly 40 years at Strasbourg, which our courts will have to take into account, makes it clear that while privacy is important, freedom of expression is an essential safeguard of democracy and will normally prevail. Rabinder Singh, a barrister specialising in public law, thinks the Human Rights Act may have its greatest impact on privacy. But he dismisses fears that this could hamper reporting by newspapers and other media in the "public interest", pointing to the high level of protection given to freedom of expression in Strasbourg case law — much higher than our own courts have traditionally given it — and Strasbourg's dislike for gagging orders.

There is a weak point in this impressive edifice of rights. The Government aims to create a culture of rights, in which ultimately the courts will have little need to intervene. In other countries this culture has been seeded by a human rights commission, a permanent watchdog. Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor,

said shortly after Labour was elected that such a body could be a "driving force for change". But the Blair government has ruled it out, at least for the present, apparently because of concern about how much it would cost and its impact on the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality.

**T**HE centre-left think tank, the Institute for Social Policy Research, argues that without an expert body to advise on and to monitor the Human Rights Act, local councils, schools, health authorities, and residential homes are less likely to take on board the culture of rights and to avoid infringements. As well as advising public bodies and monitoring the act, a human rights commission might scrutinise proposed legislation, advise individuals, train lawyers and provide legal representation for test cases. It would be able to initiate its own cases where there was no "victim" available to take a case, intervene in court cases, and investigate suspected human rights abuses.

Lord Lester QC, the leading human rights lawyer, says: "A commission is essential to ensure effective access to justice, well-supported and well-argued cases and the fostering of a climate of respect for human rights. The Government is setting up such a commission in Northern Ireland. It is intolerable that cases will be properly supported there but not in the rest of the United Kingdom. There is no reason why there cannot be a human rights commission and a separate equality commission working in partnership as in Northern Ireland."

**Sources:** (1) Getting it right: Future issues under the Human Rights Act 1998, Liberty, October 1998; (2) Rabinder Singh, Privacy and the Human Rights Act, in Human Rights Act, to be published in European Human Rights Law Review, December 1998; (3) Sarah Spencer and Ian Byrnes, A Human Rights Commission: The Options for Britain and Northern Ireland, Institute of Public Policy Research, 1998. **Photographs:** The Guardian; Mary Evans Picture Library; Researcher Matthew Keating. Clare Dyer is the Guardian's legal correspondent.

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# FinanceGuardian

First unemployment rise for six years as Bank warns of darkening outlook



The main entrance at the Bank of England, which yesterday emanated gloom at growth prospects

## A job lost every 10 minutes

Charlotte Denny  
and Larry Elliott

**F**EARS that Britain may be sliding close towards recession were heightened yesterday by new figures showing the jobless total's first significant rise in six years.

As the Bank of England warned that the prospects for the economy were darkening as a result of global turmoil and weaker domestic growth, government figures showed that the number of people out of work and claiming benefit rose by 6,900 last month.

The Bank said that the chances of the economy contracting next year were one in four, against its estimate of a one in eight risk three months ago.

Mervyn King, the Bank's deputy governor, said: "The economic slowdown that was in prospect in May and August, is likely to be sharper than previously anticipated." Mr King added that, despite the 0.75 percentage points which the Bank had cut from interest rates this autumn, the outlook for growth was weaker than at the time of the last inflation report.

"At no point is the central projection for output growth negative. The Monetary Policy Committee does not think a recession is the most likely outcome, but the risks to activity are on the downside," said Mr King.

News that the claimant count had hit 1,319,400, accompanied by separate data showing that the jobless total on the internationally agreed measure had risen by 3,000, was seized on by the Opposition.

Damian Green, shadow employment spokesman, said: "These are the worst unemployment figures for six years. We already know a job is being lost every 10 minutes and this is now showing in the figures. This Labour Government sits there complacently pretending everything is fine, while people's job

### Store chain Smith's sheds 450

Julia Finch

**N**EWS and books chain WH Smith will shed 450 jobs and says low consumer confidence could make Christmas trading tough.

The job losses, after Smith's takeover this year of the rival John Menzies chain and the closure of 30 branches, were announced as official figures showed unemployment rising. The number of jobless climbed by nearly 7,000 to 1,319 million in October, equating to 4.6 per cent of the workforce.

Details of the WH Smith redundancies came as the group released earnings figures for the three summer months showing profits down from £23 million to £2 million. The store chain, which

prospects are worsening with every day that passes." Ministers said that employment growth was strong and the labour market was still improving despite an increase in the monthly claimant count and ILO unemployment.

In the Commons, Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, said the Bank's quarterly report showed that the Government would meet its 2.5 per cent inflation target and that the economy was not



New stand: WH Smith has tried to reinvent itself since its first loss PHOTOGRAPH: ALAN REEVE

has been trying to reinvent itself during the last 12 months after a boardroom crisis and its first loss, disclosed annual profits up 10 per cent at £142 million. The result was in line with expectations, but the group's shares slid as Richard Handover, the group's chief executive, outlined the downturn in consumer confidence and predicted no rapid improvement. The crucial Christmas trading period

could be "very tough and very late", he said.

In the 12 months to the end of August like-for-like sales grew 6 per cent, but in the past 10 weeks that growth has slowed to 1 per cent.

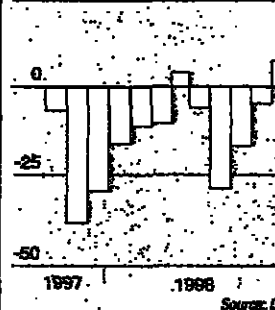
A group spokesman said there were fewer shoppers. "If people are not going out to buy clothes, furniture etc, then they aren't walking past our shops," said Mr Handover, who has sold Waterstone's

bookstores, the Virgin/Our Price music chain and Smith's American music division since he took the top job just over a year ago, has focused on improving the core high street chain. Yesterday's results show his strategy is producing results.

Meanwhile, however, the group's US division, with 409 stores mainly in hotels and airports, reported profits down 10 per cent to £5 million.

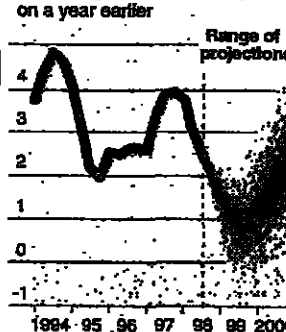
### Unemployment

Monthly change in number of claimants, thousands



### GDP projections

Percentage increase in output on a year earlier



sumers simply won't pay higher prices." The Bank would have to cut rates by a further percentage point in the new year.

According to the Office for National Statistics, the unemployment rate remained at 4.6 per cent last month, despite the rise in the claimant count. Unemployment rose for men and women, but the overall total is still 150,000 lower over the past 12 months and less than half the total of nearly 3 million reached at the trough of the last recession in late 1992.

The Labour Force Survey measure of unemployment, looking at those searching for work, was more optimistic. The numbers looking for work or in jobs rose 128,000, it said.

### Notebook

## Old Lady braces for winter chill



Edited by  
Larry Elliott

**G**IVEN the array of depressing news over the past month or so, the Bank of England's quarterly inflation report was relatively upbeat about the prospects for the economy. The Old Lady expects growth to be lower next year than it was predicting in August, but not significantly so, and the chances of recession are still only put at one in four, compared with one in eight three months ago.

But while the Bank's view of the economy is similar to that outlined by Gordon Brown in his pre-Budget report last week, the subtext is subtly different. Mervyn King, the Bank's deputy governor, said the turbulence in world financial markets and the plunge in business confidence had changed the outlook since August and helped to explain why the Monetary Policy Committee had cut interest rates at each of its last two meetings.

Moreover, the tone of yesterday's report was less optimistic than one would expect from the forecasts for inflation and growth for the next two years, reflecting the views of the Bank's agents in the regions. This suggests the Bank is bracing itself for more bad news on the economy this winter, and indeed, the report says that the balance of risks for output is on the downside, reflecting the outlook for both exports and consumer demand. Markets seem to be assuming that the Bank's soft-landing scenario and its even-handed view of the prospects for inflation point to base rates being left on hold for now.

That, of course, may prove to be the case, but history suggests that things never quite work out in the way even the most illustrious of forecasters predict. For example, the Bank has been trying to weigh up how much significance to attach to the business surveys pointing to deep recession at the same time as official data has been showing activity holding up reasonably well.

This conflict is likely to be resolved over the next few months, and will inform the MPC's view of whether the 2.5 per cent inflation target is likely to be hit.

At the moment, the indications globally and domestically are that the Bank is still being too gloomy about inflation and will have plenty of scope to cut rates as the economy weakens further.

Senior partners at PwC cannot possibly have hoped to retain all the clients of both firms even when regulators gave such a free hand to a process resulting in a drastic shrinkage of options for customers. It would be surprising if Diageo and Abbey National were the last to set off in search of choice.

### Going bananas

**B**ILL Clinton never misses a chance to proclaim America's commitment to free trade. It is one of his articles of faith that the 1930 Smoot-Hawley tariff helped turn the Wall Street Crash into the Great Depression.

Unfortunately, Mr Clinton's words do not seem to be matched by the actions of his administration. At a time when, as the President rightly says, the global economy is looking more precarious than at any time for 50 years, the White House has quite simply gone bananas over bananas.

To be sure, the European Union has been dragging its feet over the implementation of a World Trade Organisation ruling that it should change its policy on imported bananas. But the Americans have ridiculously upped the stakes by threatening European Union products from wine to toy trains.

The WTO has a perfectly good fast-track process for dealing with compliance issues, and the US should use it, before the two parts of the global economy are exhibiting some signs of growth, do each other some serious damage.

### Abbey habit

**A**BBEY National is unlikely to be the last British company to feel distinctly uncomfortable about having its books audited by

the accountancy behemoth PricewaterhouseCoopers. The building society, turned-bank said it was switching to rival Deloitte & Touche because it is worried about PwC's dominance in FTSE 100 company audits.

Diageo, the drinks company, has already dumped PwC for similar reasons. Even with Chinese walls, there is feeling that there is a huge difference between an accountant which boasts expertise and understanding of a sector and one which gets a twice yearly inside track on five or six close competitors.

When Pricewaterhouse merged with Coopers & Lybrand the combined operation acted as auditor to 47 of the 100 biggest companies in Britain.

The stranglehold on the financial sector was even more pronounced. Together the two firms ticked and bashed for half the index's 20 banks and insurers. In addition, PwC works for 83 of the rest of the FTSE 250.

Even if one mega-firm manages to attract most of the auditors with experience in a field, it may still struggle to put forward its best team of accountants when it has so many clients in the same field all needing attention at the same time.

The need to establish unbreachable Chinese walls in such circumstances would be crucial and would, to a significant extent, undermine the supposed benefits which stem from expertise in a particular field.

Senior partners at PwC cannot possibly have hoped to retain all the clients of both firms even when regulators gave such a free hand to a process resulting in a drastic shrinkage of options for customers. It would be surprising if Diageo and Abbey National were the last to set off in search of choice.

### Stagecoach accused of pricing pupils off buses

Keith Harper  
Transport Editor

**S**TAGECOACH, Britain's biggest bus and train operator, was last night accused of raising fares for children at peak times which made them late arriving and leaving school.

Thanet district council in Kent is to protest to the company about its decision to put all child bus fares up to full adult rate before 8.45am and after 3.30pm.

Patrick Sebastian, Thanet's deputy leader, said: "It is not right that a public transport provider can price children off the buses, rather than provide more buses to meet the

demand. Children are often unable to get to school on time because buses are full, and therefore do not stop for pick-ups."

"Head teachers have noticed that children are often waiting outside their schools for 45 minutes after the bell because buses either do not turn up, or are too crowded to pick-up."

Stagecoach said the concessionary fare was being withdrawn because it was uneconomic. The situation in Thanet was purely a local issue and did not apply in other parts of the country.

The company was keeping a 21 daily return on all its services which could also be used by children.

## Banks bow to 'pence per euro'

Lisa Buckingham  
City Editor

**B**RITISH banks have bowed to pressure from Europe and agreed that in future exchange rates for sterling will be quoted in pence per euro not euros per pound.

The about-turn by the British Bankers' Association comes after months of wrangling and a determined fight by dealers, who see this as the end of an era. Until now all currencies have been quoted against sterling — even the American dollar.

But the concession, which follows a recommendation from the Bank of England, is

designed to eliminate the chance of chaos in billions of pounds-worth of currency transactions between the pound and the euro.

Traders tend to deal only on the last couple of digits of the exchange rate. If it is not clear which way round the currency is quoted the margin for error is spectacular.

Buying euros at 20 is one thing if a dealer is using a pound per euro rate of 0.7320 but quite another if a euro per pound rate of 1.3720 applies.

"This is not a climbdown for the pound," said William Mason, director of the BBA's foreign exchange advisory board. "It has not been a slap in the face for the dollar to be quoted against the pound all

this time." The dollar will also be quoted in terms of dollars per euro when 11 European countries — excluding Britain — adopt a single currency on January 1.

The shift is unlikely to be apparent in high-street bank branches nor should it affect the way holidaymakers read the value of the tourist pound.

Initially at least, the agreement applies only to the inter-bank market.

Mr Mason said that "sufficient consensus" had finally been reached at a meeting of the BBA last week and opposition had now been silenced. As the deadline approaches pragmatism has outweighed patriotism.

"If you're dealing in a

### Doorstep delivery takes hi-tech route to survival, reports Janice Warman

**T**HE milkman, a much-loved but endangered part of British culture, is about to be dusted down, polished and relaunched by Midlands-based Express Dairies.

Gone will be the tatty notebook and stub of pencil. In will come the hand-held terminal, and a milk float which will bring to your door anything from your drycleaning to your holiday snaps.

Run out of nappies or cornflakes? Ring the depot by 10pm and the milkman will deliver them the next morning. Need a bunch of flowers or a box of chocolates for that forgotten anniversary? Just make sure you're out there first, the next morning. Sick of supermarkets? Telephone your order through for a delivery of discounted goods.

But beware. Because of his hand-held computer terminal recording your every transaction, your milkman will know more about you than you know yourself.

Express Dairies delivers to 1.5 million households in London, the East Midlands and Yorkshire. Along with a 104 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £28.6 million it announced a £5 million investment in hand-held terminals which will be deployed by its 1,800 milkmen from January.

### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.55	Germany 2.9988	Malaysia 6.85	Singapore 2.68
Austria 18.93	Greece 454.65	Malta 0.61	South Africa 3.16
Belgium 36.80	Hong Kong 12.47	Netherlands 3.03	Spain 228.40
Canada 2.46	India 88.73	Norway 12.06	Sweden 12.88
Cyprus 0.787	Ireland 1.0777	Portugal 274.04	Switzerland 2.2
Denmark 10.33	Israel 0.01	Saudi Arabia 8.11	Turkey 488.650
Finland 6.29	Italy 2.884	USA 1.6110	
France 6.52			

Supplied by Reuters (excluding rupee, shekel and malawi)

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# Racing

## Dettori dodges round Swain issue

Graham Rock

FRANKIE Dettori launched his video "Horsing Around" in London yesterday, but when asked to comment on the controversial defeat of Swain in the Breeders' Cup Classic on Saturday he remained silent.

"I'm here to promote the video. I'm not going to talk about Swain. You'll get nothing from me," he said. Peter Burrell, the Italian's manager, said: "Swain is history. Frankie wants to move on." Not surprising, given the criticism Dettori's ride received on both sides of the Atlantic.

The video is an unhappy mixture of Dettori's greatest rides, including the seven winners he rode at Ascot two years ago, together with shots of horses falling in jump races and of others running free prior to being loaded into the stalls.

If the release had been delayed a little, "Horsing Around" could have included film of Swain dumping Dettori twice on the Churchill Downs dirt before the start of the world's most valuable race.

Shrugging off that memory, Dettori pointed out that Godolphin had landed several major wins this year. "I won nine Group One races, including the Eclipse, the 1,000 Guineas, the King George and the Ascot Gold Cup," he said. David Loder will train the Godolphin two-year-olds at Epsom, near Paris, next season, but Dettori expects to concentrate on domestic



Nosedive... Richard Dunwoody comes a cropper on Albermarle at Newbury yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: JULIAN HERBERT

racing. "I will not be travelling to France four times a week," he said.

Dettori will ride in Japan and Hong Kong before enjoying his annual holiday over Christmas; he intends to return to the saddle in Dubai next February. Michael Kinane, Olivier Peslier and Gary Stevens have also been granted licences to ride in Hong Kong and are expected to be in action at the International meeting on December 13.

Adrian Maguire was handed a three-day suspension by the stewards at Kelso yesterday, having been found guilty of using his whip with excessive frequency on Ardrina.

"I will consider appealing," he said. Assuming the ban stands, Maguire will be out of action at the end of next week, when Ascot and Aintree stage prestigious fixtures.

There have been few more stalwart supporters

of jump racing over the years than Bill and Shirley Robins, who celebrated their 100th success with the impressive Hidebound at Newbury yesterday. "For a big horse, he is not clumsy at his hurdles," said Nicky Henderson, the winning trainer. "He's crying out for a fence but we'll probably keep him hurdling this season."

Jim Old landed the Furlong Club Novice Hurdle with Wreckless

Man, carrying the colours of his wife, Anne-Marie. "The horse has plenty of ability, but tends to throw it away," explained the trainer after Wreckless had reached the winner's enclosure for the first time in four years. The overdue victory prompted Old to say he was looking forward to "a candle and a nice supper." Sounds just the prescription for a harassed Frankie Dettori.

# Tennis

## Henman sets the pace for Hanover

Marcus Christenson in Stockholm

TIM HENMAN yesterday reached the quarter-finals of the Stockholm Open by beating the South African Wayne Ferreira in straight sets, but he will have to wait a bit longer before he can book his ticket to the ATP World Championship Finals in Hanover.

Both his rivals for the two remaining places in the quarter-finals of the ATP Tour ranking system means Kafelnikov will win a different number of points depending on whom he beats in Moscow. This leaves the two Britons hoping that the Russian loses before the final in Moscow, then both will play in Hanover.

Henman won a close first set in a tie-break. Both players had lost their serve three times. The British No. 1 broke Ferreira immediately but a disastrous fifth game allowed the South African to break back, and both then held



Henman... nervous

serve until the ninth game when Henman, playing nervously, again lost his serve through several unforced errors. However, he immediately broke back and the players' inability to hold their serves in the next two games led to the tie-break.

At last Henman discovered the form that on Monday had ousted Sweden's Mikael Tillström in straight sets. He won the tie-break comfortably, 7-3, and was 2-0 up in the second set within a few minutes. That was the final straw for Ferreira, who increasingly lost interest, allowing Henman to win 6-3 in the second and final set.

"If you win your matches everything else takes care of itself, so that's the best way to

approach it," Henman said. "I don't think the system is too complicated. I don't think we spend enough time explaining it because, when you say it is your 14 best tournaments of the year that count, it is not very complicated."

Rusedski, given two days to recover from his victory in Paris on Sunday, handsomely beat Haas 6-1, 6-4. The British No. 2 is now the most successful player in the world indoors and this was his 30th victory under a roof this year.

"It was a good match today because it is always tough, after you win a big week, to come back and play a first-round match. I think he was a little bit nervous today and I think he prefers the clay court or the hard court," he said of Haas.

Rusedski started and ended his first service game with aces but for the rest of the set was able to rely on the poor quality of the German's serve; he broke the 20-year-old world No. 35 to love in all three service games.

Rusedski continued to show his power in the second set, which he sealed at 6-4 with a perfectly executed forehand volley.

The victory earned him a second-round meeting today with the American Vince Spadea, currently ranked No. 44 in the world.

# Rugby League

## No-change Kiwis aim for a whitewash

NEW ZEALAND have signalled their intent to complete their first 3-0 whitewash in Great Britain by making a change only on the bench for Saturday's final Test in Watford, writes Andy Wilson.

Frank Endacott, their coach, had hinted that he

would play the five members of his squad who missed out on the first two Tests. But he changed his mind because he does not want to devalue Test caps, he feels the players who excelled in Huddersfield and Bolton deserve the chance to complete the job, and for the five survivors of New Zea-

land's last British tour in 1988, when the Kiwis were humbled 3-0, a whitewash would be sweet revenge.

France became the first winners of the Tri-nation Series when they came from 16-12 down at half-time to beat Scotland 26-22 in Perpignan yesterday.

# Ludlow

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
1.10	Orange Order
1.40	Shamrock Boy
2.10	Black Boy
2.40	Party Animal
3.10	Highland
4.10	Yorkshire Lad

Sharp, right-handed over back of 13m with 200yds run-in. Going: Good, good to firm in places. A. Dettori, 10m. Top form noted. Seven days winners: None. Battered or showed first time: None.

## 1.10 RICHARDS CASTLE COW JOCKEYS' SELLING H'CAP HURDLE

1.10	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.10	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.10	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.10	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.10	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 1.40 BANK'S BUSINESS BUILDER NOVICE H'CAP CHASE

1.40	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.40	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.40	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.40	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.40	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 2.10 EBF 'M' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER)

2.10	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.10	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.10	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.10	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.10	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 2.40 BATES & HUNT GROUP NOVICE CHASE

2.40	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.40	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.40	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.40	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.40	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 3.10 BANK'S NO 9 HURDLE

3.10	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.10	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.10	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.10	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.10	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 3.40 BUDGET GAS MAIDEN HURDLE

3.40	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.40	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.40	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.40	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.40	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

# Lingfield Flat (AW) programme

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
1.10	Orange Order
1.40	Shamrock Boy
2.10	Black Boy
2.40	Party Animal
3.10	Highland
4.10	Yorkshire Lad

Sharp, right-handed over back of 13m with 200yds run-in. Going: Good, good to firm in places. A. Dettori, 10m. Top form noted. Seven days winners: None. Battered or showed first time: None.

## 12.20 BOOK A BOX NOW APPRENTICE H'CAP

12.20	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
12.20	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
12.20	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
12.20	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
12.20	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 12.50 MAIDEN STAKES 3YO (DIV 1)

12.50	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
12.50	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
12.50	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
12.50	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
12.50	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 1.20 MAIDEN STAKES 3YO (DIV 2)

1.20	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.20	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.20	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.20	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.20	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 1.50 FLY & POLLARD CLAIMING STAKES 2YO

1.50	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.50	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.50	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.50	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.50	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 1.50 FLY & POLLARD CLAIMING STAKES 2YO

1.50	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.50	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.50	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.50	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.50	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 1.50 FLY & POLLARD CLAIMING STAKES 2YO

1.50	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.50	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.50	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.50	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.50	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 2.20 EBF WYKE MAIDEN STAKES 2YO

2.20	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.20	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.20	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.20	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.20	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 2.50 BRYAN GOULDING CONDITIONS STAKES

2.50	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.50	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.50	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.50	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.50	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 3.20 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP QUALIFIER (DIV 1)

3.20	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.20	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.20	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.20	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.20	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 3.50 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP QUALIFIER (DIV 2)

3.50	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.50	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.50	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.50	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3.50	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 4.00 495 RACING CLUB NOVICE H'CAP CHASE

4.00	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4.00	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4.00	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4.00	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4.00	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 4.30 495 RACING CLUB NOVICE H'CAP CHASE

4.30	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4.30	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4.30	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4.30	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4.30	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 4.50 495 RACING CLUB NOVICE H'CAP CHASE

4.50	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4.50	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4.50	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4.50	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4.50	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

# Taunton Jackpot card

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
1.10	Orange Order
1.40	Shamrock Boy
2.10	Black Boy
2.40	Party Animal
3.10	Highland
4.10	Yorkshire Lad

Sharp, right-handed over back of 13m with 200yds run-in. Going: Good, good to firm in places. A. Dettori, 10m. Top form noted. Seven days winners: None. Battered or showed first time: None.

## 1.00 SKYLAKE NOVICE HURDLE

1.00	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.00	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.00	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.00	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.00	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 1.30 ORCHARD PORTMAN SELLING H'CAP

1.30	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.30	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.30	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.30	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
1.30	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 2.00 495 RACING CLUB NOVICE H'CAP CHASE

2.00	25/100	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.00	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.00	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.00	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
2.00	10/1	Yorkshire Lad (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori

## 2.30 ROBERTS MAIDEN HURDLE

0059	10/1	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4251	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3430	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4030	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
0059	10/1	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4251	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3430	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4030	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
0059	10/1	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4251	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
3430	10/1	Party Animal (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4030	10/1	Highland (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
0059	10/1	Shamrock Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
4251	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
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4251	10/1	Black Boy (10) 12-10-0	A. Dettori
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Cricket

# Wet, wet, wet — but love is all around

John Perlman sees West Indies' belated parade get a drenching in Soweto

IT COULD have been worse. Brian Lara and Clive Lloyd will not have enjoyed getting wet but at least nobody got hurt. On a day when the all-rounder Jimmy Adams was sent home with a cut finger — an injury reportedly sustained while cutting up his dinner on the much-delayed flight from Heathrow to Johannesburg — the West Indies tour of South Africa got under way yesterday with half a match against a Gauteng Invitation XI at the Soweto Cricket Oval.

Batting first on a fast, lively wicket against an attack comprising youngsters on the fringes of provincial first teams, Lara's side rattled up 268 for seven in 47 overs before bad light forced an early lunch. Rain and hail then turned the outfield into a swamp and the day into yet another difficult one for the tourists.

Mind you, a large South African sponsorship for the West Indians — from Captain Morgan, the rum brand that once sponsored Millwall FC — was announced because the day was well set and a lot of kids came out to watch their role models.

Lara said. But he indicated, too, that the symbolic will have to give way to the serious very soon. "We're going to start playing Test cricket in two weeks," he said. "There's a lot of work to do."

The West Indians now move on to Kimberley for a four-day match against Griqualand West. The flight will be relatively short but Lloyd may be tempted to risk the finely woven tunic in the camp and issue an instruction requiring players to eat all in-flight meals with a spoon.

South Africa yesterday morning bringing with them the team's coloured one-day kit, which arrived in Soweto just in time after a high-speed drive across Johannesburg. Other touring teams have played at the venue, but for Reuben Teeladimithwa, chairman of the Soweto Cricket Club, the game was something "very very special".

"West Indies have always been our source of inspiration during the dark days of apartheid," he said. "Garry Wiers, Conrad Hunter, Wesley Hall: all those guys were black and we used to say one day we will be like them. And now that the real West Indian stars are here themselves, this will show our boys that it is possible, with the colour of their skin, to play international cricket."

Lara walked out to bat under a blue sky, in front of a full house of excited youths. As he took strike, the high school brass band on the boundary launched into California Dreaming — "all the leaves are brown, and the sky is grey". Breezy enough as these things go, but it certainly put the mockers on the weather, forcing Nelson Mandela to delay his meeting with Lara's team until the first Test at the Wanderers which starts a fortnight today.

"We're very disappointed because the day was well set and a lot of kids came out to watch their role models," Lara said. But he indicated, too, that the symbolic will have to give way to the serious very soon. "We're going to start playing Test cricket in two weeks," he said. "There's a lot of work to do."

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Strife of Brian ... Lara focuses before rain ruined yesterday's opening tour game in Soweto PHOTOGRAPH: PETER ANDREWS

## Stewart puts 'pair' behind him

Mike Selvey in Cairns with England's confident captain

ALEC STEWART arrived with his England team in the tropics to face Queensland in what promises to be the toughest match of the tour so far, with no first-class runs in his locker but with an overwhelming belief in his own ability.

After scoring some jaunty, crowd-pleasing runs at Lilac Hill the captain missed the Western Australia match with a back strain, returning against South Australia to make only the second "pair" of his career and his first for England.

Stewart is not one to be daunted, however. "It's two innings, that's all," he insisted. "It happens. If I don't get any runs in the next two innings then it would be a dent to the confidence."

With the first Test beginning in Brisbane tomorrow week, England will want to field as close to the prospective Test side as possible while mindful of any cover

that might be necessary given that the first and second Tests are back to back with no match in between. All four main seamers will probably play together as they did in Perth, with Darren Gough and Alan Mullally returning to join Angus Fraser and Dominic Cork.

The bulk of the batting side will be in action too, probably minus Graham Thorpe in order to allow his back to settle down after his double century on Tuesday, and possibly without Mark Ramprakash. Only if Alex Tudor, whom Stewart named in dispatches after the Adelaide match, is considered a possibility for Perth will the pace quartet be broken, with Fraser the most likely to be put in cotton wool.

With Ben Hollis's groin injury improving all the time, England's strategy for the opening Test looks like being one of batting depth, John Crawley joining the six who

played in Adelaide, with four seamers and no spinner. However, a case could be made for the inclusion of a spinner here in case Brisbane is out of character. It would be interesting to see whether Peter Such leap-frogged Robert Croft, generally England wait for the arrival of BBC Radio Wales before they omit Croft.



Stewart ... short of runs

Should Stewart not be fit to keep wicket for any reason then the job would fall to Crawley because Warren Hegg, concerned about the late arrival of his child, has returned briefly to England. He will be back in time for the Test.

England will face a Queensland side captained by Ian Healy, coached by John Buchanan, the computer nerd who trained Middlesex last season only to lose his job at the end, and containing no fewer than eight internationals, five of them Test cricketers. "No problem," retorted Stewart, "we'll have it."

Queensland's batting is strong, with Matthew Hayden, Stuart Law and Andrew Symonds familiar county cricket figures. The seam bowling also has an international feel to it, with Michael Kasprowicz — a possibility for the first Test — playing alongside Andy Bichel, who made the last tour to England but had to return home with an injury, and the swing bowler Adam Dale.

## Majid calls for life bans for players guilty of match-fixing or bribery

Majid Khan, the chief executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board, yesterday called for any player found guilty of match-fixing or bribery to be banned for life.

The former Pakistan all-rounder made his comments to a judicial commission looking into alleged match-fixing by Pakistani players. He added that anyone found guilty should be stripped of their ill-gotten gains.

All Sibtain Fazli, the PCB's lawyer, would not comment on whether Majid had accepted there was match-fixing and bribery but said the material he submitted was "quite helpful".

He has offered to provide the details of payments made by the cricket board to players over a period of time, Fazli said. "Justice Qayum has accepted the suggestion and has directed that the players declare their assets and the assets against the names of their dependents and spouses."

The government's Federal Investigation Agency will be asked to prepare a report if the assets are more than the players' known sources of income.

The income of Australia's captain Mark Taylor will be enhanced after his 334 not out in the second Test against Pakistan in Peshawar last month.

The score equaled Sir Don Bradman's innings against England at Headingley in 1930 and Bradman has agreed to endorse a limited-edition joint photograph, costing £513, commemorating their record. Some proceeds from the 334 photographs will go to the Bradman Museum.

Also on sale are 334 framed bats made by Millichamp and Hall (288) and a similar number of mugs of Australian shiraz-cabernet wine. A Mark Taylor 334 bat will be released next year.

Shane Warne has admitted he is all but certain to miss the first two Ashes Tests against England. The leg-spinner makes his first-class comeback for Victoria tomorrow after his shoulder operation.

Rugby Union

Robert Armstrong on Martin Johnson, the captain looking to clean up in Huddersfield

## Lock picked for a purpose

MYTHS cling to Martin Johnson like barnacles. Some people complain that he is tactful, yet the man who led the Lions before being given the England captaincy is articulate in public. Others claim he is prone to violent play, yet his opponents will tell you that the Leicester captain never takes a cheap or malicious shot.

One thing is certain: the 6ft 6in, 18 stone lock, who leads England for the first time in Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Netherlands, is one of England's few undisputed world-class performers.

It is little wonder that the Lions manager Fran Cotton declared last year: "We have made Martin our captain because we want to send a message to the Springboks that this is the type of player who never takes a step backwards when there is a Test to be won."

Clearly the England coach Clive Woodward shares Cotton's thinking even if Johnson, who has 37 caps, is only holding the fort until Lawrence Dallaglio recovers from a knee injury. Apart from his leadership skills at club level, the 28-year-old Johnson is playing with an awesome ferocity which none of his compatriots and few of his rivals in the southern hemisphere can match.

"It was great to have the summer away from international rugby," he says. "I was able to have a groin operation two days after the season ended and then go straight into rehabilitation work. Now I'm as fit as I have been at any point in my career. I'm playing good rugby again instead of finding that my body won't respond. Last season people complained about my lack of form, but I simply wasn't fit."

The perfectionism for which Johnson is renowned means that he will enjoy the England captaincy only if the team perform to their maximum potential and beat the Dutch by a cricket score. "It is a great honour to be England captain but there is no honour attached if you don't do the job well," he says. "That's what I felt when I was Lions captain and it's no different with England. However long I do the job, I am determined to do my best."

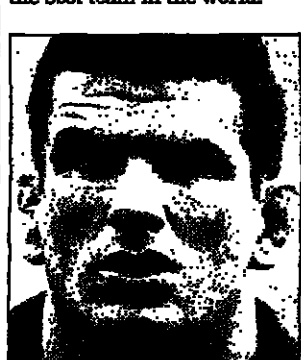
The job of Lions captain was very different to looking after Leicester and different again to being England skipper in Tests that are played at home. In fact it can be simpler to lead the team for five or six

weeks on tour, especially when everything is going well. The main task, though, is to get the team into a collective frame of mind that enables them to do the job you want. "In international rugby you'd normally expect the players to have reached a level at which they do the right things without being told. Sometimes, though, you do have to take the lead and dictate the mood by setting an example. In some ways the Holland game is an awkward one to prepare for, with one player [Dan Luger] winning his first cap and others coming back into the team having played just once or twice."

The resurgence of Leicester, who have risen to the top of the Premiership after finishing last season without a trophy, is reflected in the selection of seven Tigers for a new-look England team who have a great deal to prove.

"I'm very pleased that so many Leicester players have been capped," Johnson says. "People like Neil Back and Richard Cockerill have had to wait for a long time. Darren Garforth didn't win his first cap until he was 30. Martin Corry is in tremendous form after what was a disappointing season. Austin Healey is a talented footballer, and every one was happy to see Will Greenwood playing so well against Bath at the weekend."

Once the World Cup qualifiers against Netherlands and against Italy on Sunday October 22 are out of the way, Johnson looking forward to renewing his acquaintance with the Springboks on December 5. "The South Africans are very strong," he says. "You have to be physically committed so you don't get overpowered. Your defence has to be sound enough and you have to do something special to break their defence. You must do the basics well but it's a tough task: they are the best team in the world."



Johnson ... ferocity

Stamping 'inexcusable' says coach

## Flanker cited by Springboks

SOUTH AFRICA'S British Isles tour is off to a stormy start, with the world champions yesterday citing the Glasgow Celticians flanker Jason White. They claim their match video clearly shows him stamping on their stand-off Braam van Straaten.

"We decided after viewing the videotape that there was clear evidence to cite the Glasgow No. 6," said the Springboks' spokesman Alex Brown. "Braam picked up two very nasty shod marks on his face and if he had not been wearing a scrum-cap the injury could have been very serious."

The incident came during the Springbok second string's 62-9 victory at Firthill on Tuesday. South Africa's coach Nick Mallett said: "It is inexcusable. I wouldn't stand for that from any South African player and I was very disappointed with that aspect of the game."

The Edinburgh Reivers centre Jamie Mayer and the Northampton flanker Budge Fountain were yesterday named to make their Scotland debuts in the non-cap international with the New Zealand Maoris at Murrayfield on Saturday.

The scrum-half Bryan Redpath will take over the captaincy from Rob Wainwright, who will still play at blind-side flanker. The surprise omission from the pack is the Lions lock Doreen Weir, who will be on the bench as the selectors prefer Scott Murray and Stuart Scrim in the second row.

Scott Quinnell has signed a three-year contract with his home-town club Llanelli after his move from Richmond. The 27-year-old Wales and Lions forward, who will win his 19th cap against South Africa at Wembley on Saturday, was unveiled at Stradey Park yesterday with the Tongan centre Saeli Finau and the Waikato Chiefs prop Jason Barrill. "I am here to stay," he said.

The Toulouse wing Emilie Ntamack, absent for almost two years through injury, has been recalled by France to play against Argentina on Saturday.

SCOTLAND'S Lee (London Scottish); Shawyer (both Edinburgh Reivers); Shepherd (Glasgow Celticians); G Murray (Edinburgh Reivers); Townsend (Glasgow Celticians); Brown (Edinburgh Reivers); Scott (London Scottish); Murray (Scottish); Doreen, Wainwright (both Glasgow Celticians); Peters (Hull); Pennington (Northampton).

Sport in brief

Badminton

Nathan Robertson won twice at Grantham but could not prevent China from going two up in the six-match series against England, writes Richard Jago. He and Julian Robertson beat Deng Chunhai and Cai Yun 15-13, 17-15 and later he partnered Joanne Davies to beat Zhang-Yi and Gao Ling 15-13, 13-15, 15-12.

Cricket

The off-spinner Ellis Robinson, who helped Yorkshire

win seven County Championships in the Thirties, has died aged 87.

Ice Hockey

Nottingham still do not know whether their defenceman Corey Reade will be suspended for tonight's return B & H Cup semi-final at home to Manchester, who lead 3-2 from the first leg, writes Vic Beaudet. Beaudet slashed Manchester's Brad Rubachuk late in Monday's game and Superleague officials continued reviewing videos of the incident yesterday. "We've seen two and there is a third in the post," said the director

of sport Peter Woods. "We can't make a final decision until we have seen all the footage available."

Chess

Tony Miles shares the lead with players from France and Spain after five rounds of the World Championship zonal tournament in Andorra, writes Leonard Barden. The British grandmaster drew with the Dutch No. 3 Jeroen Piket in his latest match.

Basketball

The Sheffield forward Matt Gaudin has retired after rupturing knee ligaments.

Boxing

## Brain scan forces Lueshing to pull out of title fight

John Rawling

KEVIN LUESHING, the former British welterweight champion, has pulled out of a British title fight scheduled for Saturday week after an abnormality was revealed in a routine brain scan.

The 30-year-old from Beckenham was due to meet Nicky Thurbin for the vacant British light-middleweight title in Cheshunt on a Frank Warren promotion to be shown on Sky TV. Warrington's Craig Winters is now likely to fight Thurbin.

Lueshing, who faces enforced retirement, will seek further medical advice before deciding whether to appeal against the suspension immediately imposed by the British Board of Control.

He came closest to worldwide recognition when he challenged the international Boxing Federation welterweight champion Felix Trinidad of Puerto Rico in January 1997 in Nashville. He floored Trinidad before being stopped in the third round.

Warren said: "If this means Kevin has to retire it is unfortunate and my heart goes out to him."

goes on

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Henman hot in Stockholm, page 13

Lara at cutting edge, page 15

Spurs are drawn to Draper, page 14

Johnson hopes to clean up, page 15

## SportsGuardian

End of an Anfield era

## Evans cuts links with Liverpool

Houllier in charge as bootroom legacy ends. Ian Ross reports

**R**OY EVANS left Liverpool last night after 30 years, leaving Gerard Houllier in sole charge. Evans's No. 2 Doug Livermore will also leave Anfield.

Earlier Evans had met the Liverpool chairman David Moores, who had been under intense pressure from supporters, the boardroom and the dressing-room to abandon his bold, if controversial, experiment in shared managerial duties.

Moores indicated on Monday that he intended to give Evans and Houllier more time, but Tuesday's Worthington Cup defeat by Tottenham underlined the need for swift and decisive action.

It is believed that several Liverpool directors made

known their feelings to Moores after the game and that it was the manner of the performance, not merely the result, which sealed Evans's fate after almost five years as manager.

Evans declined to resign formally yesterday, though his words again had an air of resignation about them. "The speculation has been very difficult to live with," he said. "I have done this job with honesty and integrity and seeing the club suffer does affect me badly."

His departure after more than 30 years of unbroken service as player, coach and manager signals the onset of a new era. With him has gone the last of the "Shankly Boys" who between them won 13 championships and four European Cups to make Liv-

erpool the country's most successful club.

It is left to a Frenchman to recapture the former glories. Houllier's arrival alongside Evans in the summer was designed to offer innovation rather than revolution but Liverpool have finally bowed to the latter.

He is the first foreigner to have full control at Anfield in the club's 106-year history. Moreover he will install his compatriot Patrice Bergues, a Liverpool coach, as his assistant.

Sadly, despite his loyal service, Evans's reign will not be remembered with great fondness, yielding as it did only one trophy, the 1995 Coca-Cola Cup after a 2-1 victory over Bolton Wanderers at Wembley.

After learning his trade alongside such legends as Bill Shankly, Bob Paisley, Joe Fagan and Kenny Dalglish, Evans was appointed Liverpool manager in January 1994 after the resignation of Graeme Souness.

Despite his lengthy apprenticeship, it was with reluctance that he accepted the top job and fulfilled Shankly's prophecy of the Sixties that the boy from Bootle would one day follow in his footsteps.

After the turbulence of Souness's tenure, Evans was asked to restore some of Liverpool's traditional values. This he did, but despite investing almost £40 million on new players in less than five years he was unable to close the gap between his club and the old enemy from up the East Lancs Road, Manchester United.



Happier days... Evans and Houllier team up in July



Red light... after 30 years as player, coach and manager, Roy Evans has paid the price for failing to add to Liverpool's record 18 league titles

## Tabloid devil calls time on Faustian pair



Frank Keating

**D**ON QUIXOTE and his little mate ain't in it. Sir Geoffrey and young squire Will have so tilted at their windmills that the whole damned edifice has come crashing down upon them. Pilloried and pouting, those back-page heroes Boycott and Carling hurl themselves prostrate before us in such a barrowingly plaintive and operatic plea for understanding and presumably forgiveness that we know not where to look.

The two were for so long utterly snug (not to say snug) in the utterly confident (not to say cocksure) certainties of their enduring place in the top-shelf pantheon of English love-me-or-loathe-me good eggs. Their attested unimpeachability seemed to have assured each a lifetime pension of awe and respect and wallet-bulging contracts. No more.

It is now a pitiable tragedian's tale. Each of their different domestic discomforts at first seemed simply and fleetingly to add, for a week or two, no more than a snatch of passing and perverted gaiety for a nation obsessed with, and hungry for, the enjoyable comeuppance of any millionaire head. The "they-had-it-coming-to-them" syndrome. Each case now looks seriously tragic to me.

When you are in a hole, stop digging — and yet both of these idiot Fausts knew no better than to pile perversity on perversity, and then pocket wads from these very persecutors — to get them out of the mire in which they suddenly wallowed.

But tabloids have no mercy, no sense of fair-do's let alone justice. Why should they exist for the gaiety of the nation. Like those tropical spiders, the more satisfyingly you make love to them, the more gurgingly they will eat you up afterwards.

The Sun's ruthless, righteous front-page screamer yesterday was "We sack Boycott". The Mail on Sunday's entrapping double-cross headline above Carling's paid-for, soul-baring exclusive was "Why am I being made to suffer like this?" — but the paper coldly added: "Perhaps, Will, you should ask Julia. All or, even better, baby Henry."

With friends like those... But why not? Carling had pocketed a fat fee for his *mez culpa* "private" confessional. The crux of these two crucifix-

ions is genuine friendship. Both Geoffrey and poor Will conduct their life through headlines and cheques.

High on the hoof they were single-minded, self-assured and selfish soloists: heady days — and in the cricketer's case as ace opinionated broadcaster — which now, in their anguish, are friendless. Who with some clout and substance will defend them? Not even those who shared their beds. Unless for tabloid money.

Leaving aside the pathetic ticket sales for his fancifully presumptuous national book-flogging tour, the plug on Carling was humiliatingly pulled on his £1.5 million Wembley benefit match once the lack of a crowded quorum meant his worldwide presence was not going to turn up if the promised top whack for doing so could not be banked in advance. There's genuine friendship for you.

In Boycott's case, it seems the former Yorkshire and England batsman now has to cough up more than £200,000 for mounting a defence which had him transporting to France a motley charabanc-load of former lovers and mistresses, as well as others "injured in falls".

The old girls' reunion "team photograph" unquestionably did add to global anxiety: you could have launched a fleet of Riviera windsurfers that day, such was the fluttering of false and mascara-laden eyelashes.

Once the blonde coquette of a mini-skirted judge had asked the defendant's Max Clifford, "Who is the News of the World?", you knew the game was up. Why didn't Sir Geoffrey flirt with the judge, for Heaven's sake? Failure to do so, and his pitch-prodding public life looks dreadfully doomed.

**C**ARLING's case is much cruefter. His was no legal crime. But what now? Will was never going to cut the mustard as a broadcasting journo anyway: even before he kept insisting that shyness was his bag he never looked remotely interested. His two short-planks defence of gormlessness has misfired: get into the pinstriped City, Will, to recoup your losses; or estate-agency; or would the Army have you back?

Yet, working together, I have known them well and liked them both and I feel sad at each predicament — for Carling in a George Eliot shawled-stavelling-at-the-door sort of way; for Boycott because he so obviously, crassly, fatally, heaped fault upon fault by taking farce and burlesque into the very bourgeois heartland of Feydeau and Moliere.

They are more agelessly subtle there at farce and burlesque. Masters at it, they know that the way to get the gel off your back is, well, to marry her. Our two lads never thought of that.

## Yugoslav coach bans mobile phones before Ireland match

**Y**UGOSLAVIA's coach Milan Zivadinovic has banned his players from using mobile phones before next Wednesday's rearranged European Championship Group Eight qualifier against the Republic of Ireland in Belgrade.

"I want 100 per cent concentration for the match with Ireland and I am banning the use of mobile phones," Zivadinovic said yesterday.

"I notice that after training sessions players spend all their time talking on their phones and losing their concentration. To prevent this their mobile phones will be put under lock and key."

Zivadinovic was following the lead of the Tottenham Hotspur manager George Graham, who this week stopped his players from making calls on their mobile phones while at the training ground or on match days whether home or away.

Graham's policy paid off on Tuesday when Tottenham defeated Liverpool 3-1 away to reach the quarter-finals of the Worthington Cup. It was the north London side's biggest win at Anfield.

The Catalan press is calling for Barcelona's coach Louis van Gaal to be sacked after two defeats in less than a week. First his home by Bayern Munich in the Champions League and then on Sunday they lost 2-0 to Oviedo in the Spanish League.

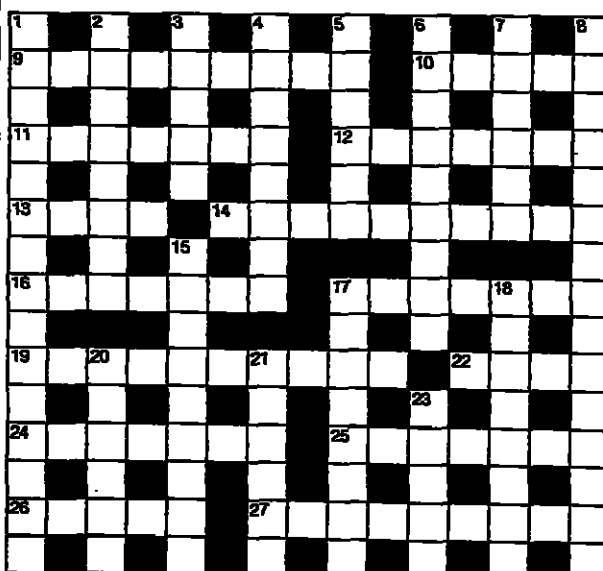
But tabloids have no mercy, no sense of fair-do's let alone justice. Why should they exist for the gaiety of the nation. Like those tropical spiders, the more satisfyingly you make love to them, the more gurgingly they will eat you up afterwards.

The Sun's ruthless, righteous front-page screamer yesterday was "We sack Boycott". The Mail on Sunday's entrapping double-cross headline above Carling's paid-for, soul-baring exclusive was "Why am I being made to suffer like this?" — but the paper coldly added: "Perhaps, Will, you should ask Julia. All or, even better, baby Henry."

With friends like those... But why not? Carling had pocketed a fat fee for his *mez culpa* "private" confessional. The crux of these two crucifix-

## Guardian Crossword No 21,430

Set by Janus



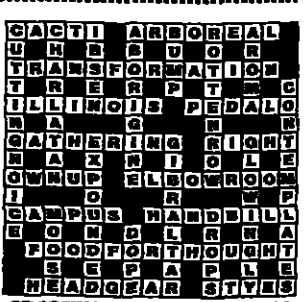
## Across

- 9 Collection for tender Conservative? (5)
- 10 Some women in therapy having one over the eight perhaps (5)
- 11 Head teacher gives out: "Parts of the body" (7)
- 12 It provides stability to see Labour returned finally (7)
- 13 Cross over entrance (4)
- 14 He wrote about unusual blue willow (4,6)
- 16 Speaks indistinctly so puts total in writing (7)
- 17 Ship's barber? (7)

## Down

- 1 Athlete's dash in unexpected event (4,4,3,4)
- 19 Life of luxury in Alpine benefice, for example (4,6)
- 22 Novice involved in mishap in sacred river (4)
- 24 Support for worm turning over to rest perhaps (7)
- 25 Artist forced to be about rejected work (7)
- 26 Custom, for example, returning to America (5)
- 27 Gives permission to go to Lancaster for gloves (9)

- 2 Branch making bed fire? (8)
- 3 Credit press with childish complaint (5)
- 4 A shilling remains for ropes (8)
- 5 Instrument said to be an emblem (8)
- 6 Continent accepting new angle on painlessness (8)
- 7 Bring on as a consequence of measure to follow (8)
- 8 Talks on value of hot water at stately home (10,5)
- 15 Truths one found in actual site possibly (9)
- 17 Explain exact Tory lead (8)
- 18 Suitable Christmas present for traffic policeman? (8)
- 20 Where in Palestine soldier takes first place (8)
- 21 Five revolutionaries proceed to the Amazon (8)
- 23 Some have stayed for the match (5)

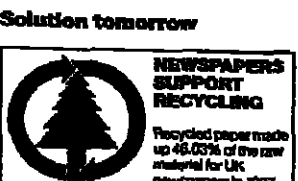


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\*In Business Traveller Magazine



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سكرا من الامين





# How to give good interview

As Monica Lewinsky prepares to tell her story on prime-time, Kamal Ahmed offers her a few tips gathered from the great television heart-to-hearts

**M**anager Thatcher told Barbara Walters of her "great romance" with her husband, Donald Trump, in a 1992 interview. Walters, who was "fired" from her job as host of the show, was then interviewed by Walters on the same show. Walters, who was "fired" from her job as host of the show, was then interviewed by Walters on the same show. Walters, who was "fired" from her job as host of the show, was then interviewed by Walters on the same show.



## A grilling or a cosy chat: the people with the big questions

- Martin Bashir**  
Home: Recently hit the BBC for TV  
Scope: November 1995, exclusive  
interview with Princess Diana for  
Panorama. June 1998, exclusive  
interview with Prince Charles.  
Peak audience: 23 million.  
Style: Highly effective combination  
of good copy and good questions.  
Heard from the 1980s, he has  
quietly moved to one side in favour of  
other interviewers. But he is still  
there, at the heart of the nation, Prime  
Minister?
- Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan**  
Home: TV  
Scope: May 1998, exclusive OU  
interview with Prince Charles.  
Peak audience: 7 million.  
Style: Slightly puzzled, dogged  
rather than flustered. Said in a recent  
interview: "I'm teaching myself to be  
rude." Turned down the offer to  
interview Charles at 50 because  
he was "scared" by the last  
encounter.
- Jonathan Dimbleby**  
Home: BBC  
Scope: June 1994, exclusive  
interview with Prince Charles.  
Peak audience: 20 million.  
Style: Slightly puzzled, dogged  
rather than flustered. Said in a recent  
interview: "I'm teaching myself to be  
rude." Turned down the offer to  
interview Charles at 50 because  
he was "scared" by the last  
encounter.
- Jon Snow**  
Home: TV  
Scope: July 1991, exclusive inter-  
view with Gorbachev.  
Peak audience: 2 million for a  
breaking story.  
Style: Upbeat news journalist  
with a raucous streak; straight  
in with the hard core questions;  
inclined to leave the script  
and pursue poorly answered  
questions until they are nailed.

### ILLINOIS S340RD II

The Guardian Thursday November 12 1998

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Closing date 27 November 1998. Please quote ref 820/98.

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Further information and details of how to apply may be obtained by writing to the Personnel Office, University of York, Heslington, York YO10 5DD, or email: [personnel@york.ac.uk](mailto:personnel@york.ac.uk), quoting reference number 1/98098. The closing date for applications is 3 December 1998.

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#### Quick crossword No. 8903

Across

1. Ignorance (6)
2. Business - settled (4)
3. Support - employee (6)
4. Moral (7)
5. Unlucky (2,3,4,3)
6. Sick (6)
7. Get free (6)
8. Plan (4,8)
9. Aged (7)
10. Bring forth - children (6)
11. Pain - stronghold (4)
12. Movement - forward (8)

Down

1. Power (4)
2. Riddle - way to (4)
3. Confounding (7)
4. Riddle (6)
5. Riddle - army (4)
6. Riddle (6)
7. Riddle (6)
8. Riddle (6)
9. Riddle (6)
10. Riddle (6)
11. Riddle (6)
12. Riddle (6)

#### Doonesbury

THIS IS AN HISTORIC MOMENT, MRS. McALPHEE. ...I MEAN WE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES IN THE PAST, BUT LET'S FACE IT, UNDER THE SKIN ...

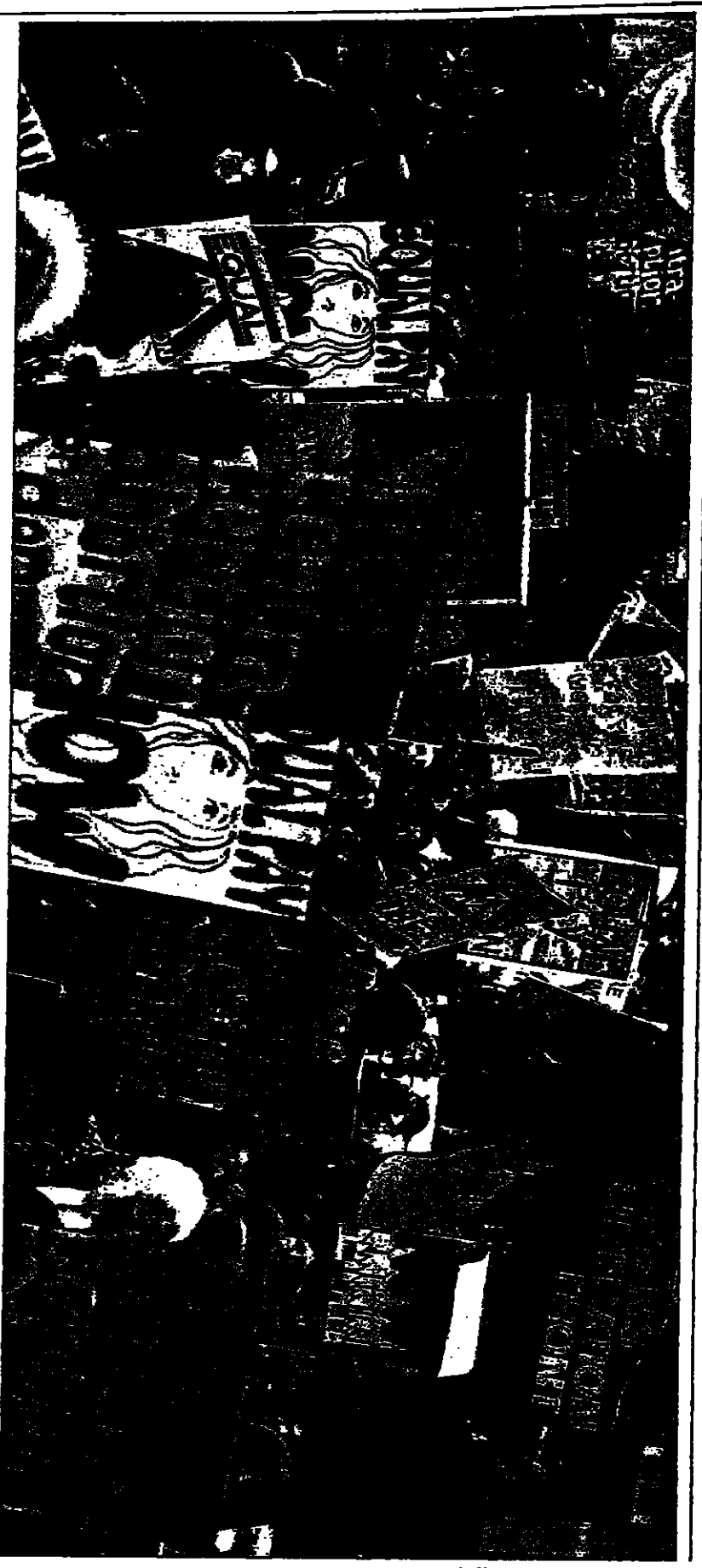
...YOU MICKS ARE ALMOST AS THICK AS I AM!

BY GARRY TRUDEAU





# Women



PHOTOGRAPH BY HAMILTON-WEST

Who's afraid of the big, bad word? Earlier this week, minister for women Baroness Jay was quick to deny that she is a feminist. So who is these days? We asked ... and this is what we were told

## Do you use the F word?

**Baroness Jay**  
In politics, feminism is seen as negative, complaining about things. It's all about hating your bra, then, now perceived to be about separatism, putting up a brick wall between men and women. I don't think you have to be negative like that.

**Le Loach, poet**  
Of course I consider myself a feminist. It's very simple. It's about basic equality, control of one's body and fertility. I'm appalled at what Baroness Jay said.

**Thomas, 46, bookshop worker**  
Feminism is middle-class women wanting better jobs. I am a socialist feminist. Things like bad lighting on council estates — these are the real feminist issues.

**Dana Barbara Garland**  
Being a feminist is being a woman — it's being female. There is nothing wrong with being female. I don't see the point in hiding with names and giving them a nasty meaning.

**Frances, single mother, 34**  
No, I wouldn't call myself a feminist. I don't think women are ever going to be equal. When you get kids, your perspective changes; they come first. Then you can't be treated like a child.

**Power Berry, president, Families Need Fathers**  
I used to consider myself a feminist because I thought it was about equality. Now I'm wary of the term. Feminists are extremists who hate men.

**Marie, 64**  
It's all changed since my day. It was all about hating your bra, then, now it's about wearing your short skirt and getting the job.

**Ally, 27, art gallery owner**  
Feminism is about not taking any nonsense, getting what I want, being female. Women can have it all and have got it all. If only they could see.

**Alamy, 27, butcher**  
A feminist is someone who believes women should be allowed to live the way they choose. That's fine by me.

**Neil Lyndon, author**  
Feminism is the most damaging and poisonous intellectual misapprehension of our times. As irrelevant to women and men as Marxism is to China.

**Rebecca Ray, 19, novelist**  
At school, we were taught about female poets and I could never understand why the course wasn't just on poets full stop. I think there's too much emphasis on gender.

**Harry, 40**  
No, I would never! Those feminists are doing themselves a lot of harm. It's damned ridiculous objecting to men opening doors and giving up their seats. They're ruining standards.

**John Pigeon, journalist**  
It's not possible to be a true feminist unless you are a socialist. The two are indivisible. If the word still has that meaning, I am one. If it's merely a term of middle-class convenience, I am not one.

**John Pigeon, journalist**  
If you're a feminist, it means you're a lesbian, isn't it?

**Sarah Pope, editor, Sugar**  
I'm proud to think of myself as a feminist, but the term has become passe. Promoting women's issues is a nicer way of saying it.

**George Monbiot, environmentalist**  
Very funny, yes, I am a feminist. It is very easy for coys, comfortable middle-class people in Britain to say feminism's passe, but the great majority of women worldwide still do all the work while men make all the economic decisions.

**Ashley, 18**  
They're usually more manly than men, aren't they? No make-up, short hair and all that. But it's important to fight for women's rights, particularly when in some places like the Saudi, where I was born, women aren't even allowed to drive, let alone work. There's no point having an education if you can't use it, is there?

## one

Stallman's point is that Linux is "totally useless by itself" while GNU can be run on top of a different kernel. A preliminary version of GNU's own more advanced kernel, Hurd, was released for programmers about a year ago, and Stallman says a version for users is on the way. It will be published by Debian as Debian GNU/Linux, alongside Debian GNU/Hurd.

The GNU system includes masses of software not written as part of the GNU project. "If there was something already available that was good enough, we used it," Stallman says, examining his notes for spite. The point is not just to give credit to the GNU project — "which tends to get forgotten and written out of history," he says — but to introduce the philosophical issues about copyright and the ownership of software.

But Stallman's philosophy is exactly what Eric Raymond, a contributor to the GNU project, is trying to dump. Raymond, a programmer in Malvern, Pennsylvania, editor of the New Hacker's Dictionary and "no-person dictator" with a taste for rums, refers to Stallman as "that crazy guy from Beirut." In April he told Salon ([www.salonmag.com](http://www.salonmag.com)) "I love Richard dearly, and we've been friends since the '70s and I've done valuable services to our community, but in the battle we are fighting now, ideology is just a handicap. We need to be making arguments based on economics and development processes and expected return. We do not need to behave like Communists punning our fists on the barricades. This is a losing strategy."

Raymond's big break came thanks to a conference paper called "The Cathedral and the Bazaar," which he posted on the Web. It presented a cogent argument for the development of open software — essentially publishing the source code of programs and inviting the hacker community to improve them. The paper helped to persuade Netpage to open up the source code of its popular Web browser, Navigator. This was not so much to provide users with freedom (though it did), as to bring in outsiders to help defray the cost of improving a program. Netpage felt forced to give away in its fight for market share with Microsoft.

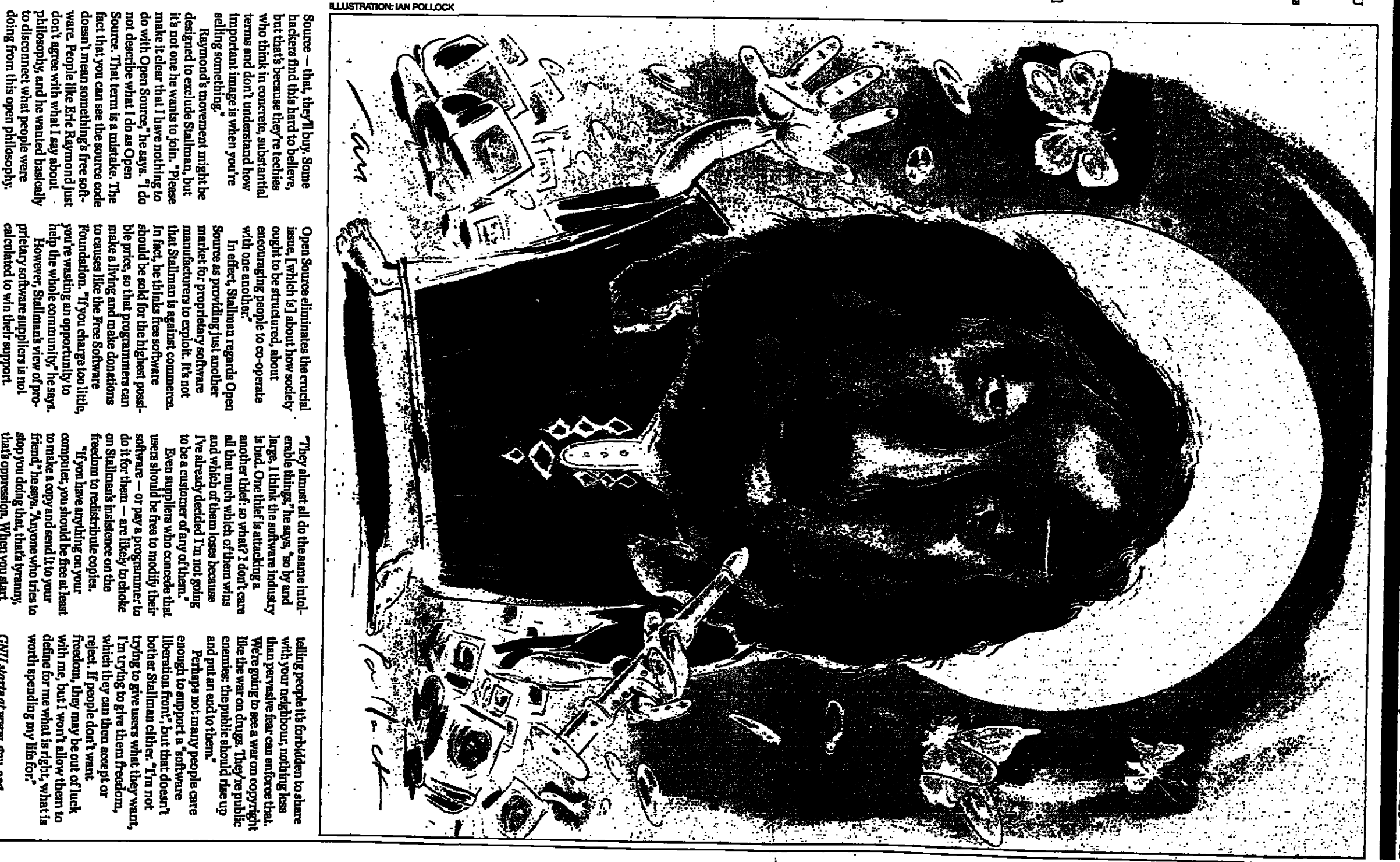


ILLUSTRATION: IAN POLLOCK

Source — that, they'll buy. Some hackers find this hard to believe, but that's because they're techies who think in concrete, substantial terms and don't understand how important image is when you're selling something.

Raymond's movement might be designed to exclude Stallman, but it's not one he wants to join. "Please make it clear that I have nothing to do with Open Source," he says. "I do not describe what I do as Open Source. That term is a mistake. The fact that you can see the source code doesn't mean something's free software. People like Eric Raymond just don't agree with what I say about philosophy, and he wanted basically to disown what people were doing from this open philosophy."

Open Source eliminates the crucial issue, [which is] about how society ought to be organized, about encouraging people to co-operate with one another.

In effect, Stallman regards Open Source as providing just another market for proprietary software manufacturers to exploit. It's not in fact, he thinks free software should be sold for the highest possible price, so that programmers can make a living and make donations to causes like the Free Software Foundation. "If you charge too little, you're wasting an opportunity to help the whole community," he says. However, Stallman's view of proprietary software suppliers is not calculated to win their support.

"They almost all do the same intellectual thing," he says, "so by and large, I think the software industry is bad. One that is attacking another that's so what? I don't care all that much which of them wins and which of them loses because I've already decided I'm not going to be a customer of any of them."

Even suppliers who concede that users should be free to modify their software — or pay a programmer to do it for them — are likely to shake on Stallman's insistence on the freedom to redistribute copies.

If you have anything on your computer, you should be free at least to make a copy and send it to your friend," he says. "Anyone who tries to stop you doing that, that's tyranny, that's oppression. When you start

telling people it's forbidden to share with your neighbour, nothing less than persuasive force can enforce that. We're going to see a war on copyright like the war on drugs. They're public enemies, the public should tie up and put an end to them."

Perhaps not many people care enough to support a "software liberation front," but that doesn't bother Stallman either. "I'm not trying to give users what they want, I'm trying to give them freedom, which they can then accept or reject. If people don't want freedom, they may be out of luck with me, but I won't allow them to define for me what is right, what is worth spending my life for."

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## Net gains on holidays

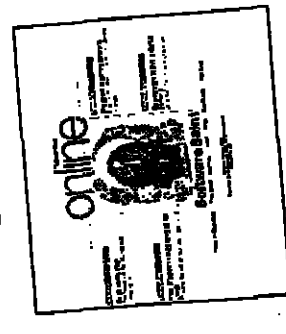
With a click of his mouse, **Steve Shipside** heads off into the wild blue yonder

**H**ow's this for a deal? £150 return to London, airport tax included. Now how would you like to sail an extra £30 off that? Well you can, because £30 is what you save on BA subsidiary Go, by booking the same flight on the Web site ([www.go-fly.com](http://www.go-fly.com)) rather than by phone. Airlines, particularly at the cheaper end of the scale, are so keen to get us buying online, they are offering preferential fares on the case of United Airlines, for example.

It's not hard to see why. Last year, the UK's online travel agents, Microsoft Expedia, Travelocity, and Priceline, broke into the top 50 US firms in this field. Analysts expect communications to rise to £50 billion in 2002, the US will spend \$50 billion on travel, representing more than 40 per cent of the country's total e-commerce trade.

The UK is a little behind, but the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) show that while fewer than 1 per cent of us buy package holidays via the Net today, more than 45 per cent of those with Net access will want to. No only should still shop around.

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# Software saint

Richard Stallman is the force behind the Free Software Foundation — that's "free" as in "free speech," not "free beer". As bitter struggles for ascendancy drive disputes from Silicon Valley start-ups to Washington court rooms, Stallman's star is rising. **Jack Schofield** meets the sage

**M**ETTING Richard Stallman at Victoria station, London, I acquired to take a high-tech approach: instead of writing his name on a tatty bit of paper, I opened a Microsoft Word document and held up my notebook computer to display it in 72pt type.

The play worked. Though I earned a smiling salute, "I advise you to approve of your choice of software," he said. Stallman, but I didn't see it. Stallman's name was hardly unknown. Anyone familiar with Unix hackers (not the people who break into computers, but the ones who love exploring the mysteries of this complex yet powerful operating system) could have spotted Stallman from 60 yards. He has the long hair and bushy black beard common to the breed, and is attired to suggest that the way people dress is the least important thing about them. He also speaks quietly but with some intensity. It's easy to see why people call him "the saint of free software", especially as this freedom is ethical, not "free beer", he says.

Stallman's message is that instead of using proprietary software from Microsoft, Apple and Sun, we should all use free software, that we can change as we wish, and pass on to our friends. There is a growing interest in such programs, thanks partly to the Linux operating system, and the success of Apache, the leading software for serving up Web pages. It's reached the point where even Microsoft claims to be worried — though when Microsoft is under attack for monopolising the software market, as it is now in a Washington court room, the company may have ulterior motives for boosting the opposition.

Stallman's message is in demand. He is visiting Europe to give talks in the UK, Finland, France and Holland, though it's not quite a grand tour. He's mostly staying with friends, and the large duffel bag he's toting contains an alford that will be unrolled on my living room floor.

## His bag contains an alford for my living room floor. It's a modest enough service to offer the founder of the Free Software Foundation

GNU/Linux, to reflect the fact that Stallman wrote only one small part, albeit at the operating system's heart. Much more of the code was developed as part of Stallman's project to produce a free Unix-compatible operating system called GNU (Gnu's Not Unix), which stands for "Gnu is Not Unix". Stallman was also the principal initial author of GNU Emacs, the standard Unix word processor, the GCC compiler used for writing Linux, which is the same name as the one component, Linux wrote.



The way we were ... in 1971, when this march book place, women were proud to be feminists

**Emma Thompson, actor, Labour role model for young women**  
I get pissed off when people say they're not feminists. I associate it with liberty and struggle for equality. If Baroness Jay wants to create role models, she should focus on single mothers; they're our brave heroines.

**Lee, thirties, ex-army**  
Women expect men to behave in a certain way and to be treated and paid equally. But if there's something they can't do the same as men, they say they're being discriminated against. If a woman called herself a feminist, I wouldn't treat her like a lady.

**Cynthia Payne**  
I'm not a feminist, I'm a liberated woman. Feminism isn't about sex, so I'm really out of my depth.

**Robert Klein, 60, ex-actor**  
I don't agree with women's liberation: men should be the boss.

**Alan McGee, Creation Records**  
Sexuality in the late nineties is blurred but I believe men and women are equal, so yes, I'm a feminist.

**Helen, waitress supervisor, 28**  
No. Why do we want equality? We still want the man to pay our bills.

**Mr Vicky Tuck, headmistress, Cheltenham Ladies' College**  
I see it as the freedom to interpret the world from a woman's point of view. Just as Marxism liberated the working class, so feminism gave a voice to women. But one doesn't have to be that feminist to be a feminist. I am an educating today feel confident of what we can achieve.

**Errol, early thirties, designer**  
Yeah, I'd call myself a feminist, a mild one. That term has been abused a lot. All that office macho bullshit really pisses me off, the brutish language, the violence, the harassment. You can't just pretend it doesn't go on.

**Sue Orbach, therapist**  
For my generation, feminism was a way in which we could rethink our lives and the world. It was exciting, not something to be embarrassed about. But now feminist ideas have become part of our culture, so young people don't need the word. They're the real beneficiaries of feminism.

**Jean, single mother of two**  
I've got more important things to be worried about than stupid terms.

**Lorna Russell, 28, editor, Syll**  
Would I call myself a feminist? Absolutely. It's not a scary word; it means equality with men. The more people use it, the less frightening it will become.

Interviews by Claire Phipps, Sheila Knapton, Gayle Williams, Annie Taylor, Rachel Prasad

This week, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union will vote on a new deputy to the general secretary. So? So the frontrunner is a woman. **Beatrix Campbell** reports

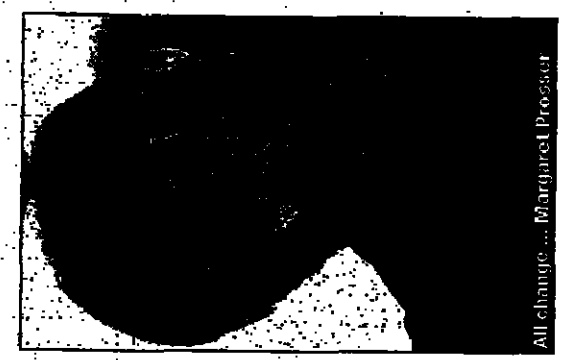
## Thoroughly modern Margaret

**P**eter Mandelson tells us the moderniser, the Damocles U-turn, was in the late seventies when he saw the wrangling between the last Labour government and the Trades Union Congress. It was the prelude to the Winter of Discontent and women being branded "the enemy within". But Mandelson was not the only moderniser. Down in enemy territory, there were already others trying to transform trade unions into things that really looked and sounded like the many millions of people they claimed to represent.

The most inventive of these were women. Many have disappeared, tired or too bored with interminable resistance to reform. But this week, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union will vote on whether to take to its top one of these modernisers, national women's officer Margaret Prosser. The poll is for a deputy to the general secretary, Bill Morris, Britain's first black union leader. A black man and a woman leading one of our most masculine institutions — unprecedented.

The TGWU's roots lie among factory workers and manual labourers; it was a union for men. But it has undertaken significant reforms. This year, it adopted proportionality: its committees and representatives must reflect the membership. Twenty per cent of its 950,000 members are women, but they have only 10 of the 270 officers' jobs.

"There is a growing membership among women and black people," says Bob Purkis, the union's national race officer. "But there are a lot of Paul Condons who don't recognise institutional discrimination. Margaret Prosser has always



All change... Margaret Prosser

recognised that we needed a total change of culture and ethos." Renovation required three big changes. "First, it wasn't enough to have an equality agenda, we had to get everybody talking about it. It wasn't an add-on, it was central. Purkis says. "Second, it had to be structural, giving full representation to women and black people." The third strand was culture. A cultural revolution was overdue in the entire movement, including the TGWU, whose women's committee Prosser has chaired. She is regarded as a success, but both the project and the person are resisted by those who complain that she doesn't have "industrial experience; that she isn't a 'hurry-bustard son of toil'." It's true, the last. "I didn't serve 101 years on the shop floor at Ford," Prosser agrees. But she began her working life as a mother and caring for a disabled husband, in Glasgow for a period, and then in London.

Her main contender is Fred Hicks, a leftwinger from the oil and chemicals industry. But the collapse of manufacturing makes "industrial experience" a minority experience. Prosser believes Prosser's history connects her not only with the lives of ordinary people, but with the problem-solving skills that transcend workplaces. "She's had wider experience than most colleagues who've worked in industry," he says. "She's used to daily problem-solving. I've been a factory convenor and you don't get that in factories; things go along quite well, it's quite procedural." At the TGWU, the commitment to

equality is palpable in the growth of its equality staff, despite several rounds of cuts. But many unions have cut, demoted or overruled women organisers and the TUC general council has just lost two of its younger women. This election will be a test of the degree to which reform has entered the soul of the TGWU. It is being watched by other trade unions, particularly women, whose numbers have increased despite the movement's decline.

Where there's a union, says Kay Carberry, head of equal rights at the TUC, "employees usually enjoy better pay, better benefits and more family-friendly policies". "The union has been their first line of defence against the worst excesses of the last government," adds Patricia Mackdown, a deputy regional secretary in Britain's

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Keeping up with what's going on at this year's London Film Festival could be hard. But don't fret yet, leg on — to the official LF website brought to you by the Guardian. You'll find information about all the fantastic movies, a full festival schedule, film a planner which you can personalise. And don't forget to hit back by logging your own opinions of the films on our bulletin boards.







Clive Barker is a bigot's worst nightmare. Rich, famous and happily married... to a man. As his new book hits the stands, Mr Fantasy talks to **Phil Daoust**

# I sound like a pervert? Whoopee!

**C**hris Barfoot has just come back from the game, where he's been... well, I don't know, and I'm not sure I want to. Sticking his fingers down his throat, gagging with vomit, while dealing with angry water, self-administering the Heimlich maneuver. Phoning the Queen Momb for advice. Whatever it is you do when you've choked on a bit of moonshine.

**C**riser, *Waveworld* and *The books of Criedon* has now produced an epic, evocative, fantastic story about two families — one of minor gods, the other of American plutocrats — who fall out over a spot of infidelity.

The food is lovely, the service is impeccable, but the three of us given to do with a little background noise, grew very that were interested in only one aspect of the novel. The way the conversation

**C**heck Barford has just come back from the game, where he's been, "well, I don't know, and I'm not sure I want to. Sticking his fingers down his neck. Gargling with sugar water. Self-administering the Heimlich maneuver. Phoning the Queen Mary for advice. Whatever it is you do when you're choked on a bit of nonfish."

Still reed in the face, he sits down. "I'm sorry. That wasn't quite right," he says in an accent that mixes Hollywood with the native Liverpool. "Now what were we talking about? Homes and gay sex?"

Barford, the 34-year-old actor in a rather smart London restaurant, ostensibly to have a rounded conversation about a novel called *Fallible*, this writer and film-maker's latest script, and the politics of horror and fantasy. The man who brought us *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Mr. Bean* is here to

critique *Wetworld* and *The Book of Eli*. *Wetworld* has now produced an epic, evocative, fantastic story about two families — one of minor gods, the other of American plutocrats — who fall out over a spot of infidelity.

The food is lovely, the service is impeccable, but the three of us, given to a little background noise, grow weary that we're interested in only one aspect of the novel. The way the conversation goes, it's a miracle none of the other diners have choked on their food.

"[E]h, we're when you're bored with the subject," Barford says to a disinterested waiter. "I'm never bored with talking about sex. Or writing about it. I'm almost as interested in writing about sex as I am in performing it. It does nothing about sex."

"Is it a turn-on?" I ask.

*Wetworld*. Sitting there with a woody —

*Hold on, Barford is gay but writes*

mainly about straight sex. Is that really so arousing?

Absolutely, he insists. "There's a scene in the new book where one of the characters overuses the mating of his horses in a storm; even that was easy to write. I'm in danger of coming across like a pervert in this conversation, but it's too late now."

None of us, by the way, have drunk much. The tally for the table stands at two glasses of wine and an aperitif. "I think people are a little two-faced about this stuff," Barker goes on. "I think the business of sex, the business of the flesh, whether it's our flesh or somebody else's, in just about any bloody combination we like, is absolutely fascinating. Watching people do that, dead as night, wonderful because it's pleasurable and it's sensual... This posture of literary detachment seems totally phony. I think it does with a bunch of other postures



be connected to the machinery of your body, the way you respond to the world moment to moment. And — you have to admire that innocent little end — a lot of that is absolutely sexual."

It takes quite something to get Barker off the subject of sex — not that any of us can really be bothered — but there are a couple of subjects that hold his attention for a while.

First, he has a resplendent 10-year-old Nicole, thanks to his hands-on earlier relationship. It wasn't Barker who broke the parents up, he points out — though that would have been "cool" — and he and Nicole got on famously. "She's a *wonderful* child. I'm learning a lot having a kid in the house. I never thought it would happen. 'He laughs with delight, but it's ironic given his remarks three years ago.' I think there is a gay sensibility," he said then. "It's shaped by social circumstances. I've

uses of the South African music scene ever since they helped out Paul Simon with their stirring, growling vocal harmonies on his Grammy album, but it's only since their music was used for the Helix TV campaign that the 10-man a cappella group has really hit the big time here. Their "Best Of" album has now sold over 200,000 copies in the UK alone, and reached number two in the album charts (besting only by the Manic Street Preachers).

Returning to the Festival Hall, in the World Music line-up that forms part of this year's O2 Jazz Festival, they allowed how they had progressed. The clanking and clonking was slicker, there were more jokes, and some potentially embar-

gliming the success of the Cuban troupe, the Brema Vite Social Club, the legendary story allows there is a potential new mass market for World Music. So who could be next? Well, there were a few commentaries also performing at the Festival on the South Bank. At the Paved Room was Virginia Koudigen, who has been hailed as "the new voice of Brazil". An imposing lady in her early thirties, with the physique and presence of a grand opera diva, she was born in the hillside estates outside Salvador, in Bahia, where many descendants of African slaves have settled. She started singing in church and developed a style that has little to do with the great dance

guitar or electric stand-up bass. Which was all very impressive, as far as it went, but greater misanthropy would have been welcome. Those desperate to dance had to trust the flyer of the evening, for the first British performance by the delightfully-Dutch Orchestra Nacional Do Samba — named after the African and Arabic quarter of Paris. A chaotic-looking 11-piece, featuring anything from oud to brass, synthesizers and old-fashioned rock guitars, and with at least six vocalists, they played a nervous, somewhat unfocused blend of R&B and jazz that would have been far more interesting if they had got the sound balance right.

**Robin Denwood**

**'SOMETHING  
REMARKABLE  
IS HAPPENING...'  
I DOUBT IF ANYBODY COULD HAVE  
PREDICTED THE BLAZING SUCCESS OF  
THIS EXTRAORDINARY VENTURE**

*Entrepreneur* Winter 1985

**21<sup>st</sup> Century  
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lives of fearful people, I don't have the constraints of a family or children to educate and bring up. I am released from social imperatives laid down by society. By our parents. I'm free, if you will, to invent myself — fast, anyway. I have more time to dream."

There's no doubt Barber dotes on Nicole, but as for something Britton he is taken aback at. "How adored American pre-teens can be. I saw my first horror film at 15. 'Nicki was all my

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**Nicole** moves long before I met her. She liked them. She *loves* horror. But I won't let her see them. I'm like, 'No, no, no, you're not seeing that in my house.' "He can just see the headlines: film-maker Dennis Shepardughter His Own Movies." I don't think it's appropriate. I didn't make them for kids. And, um, I feel strange about it. There's a lot of graphic imagery, a lot of sexuality in the movies.

If Nicole and her dad were unexpected beneficiaries of Barker's move to the

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Barrett's life for the past two years as well as when he has exchanged rings in a private wedding.

Barrett has never been out about sex, or his orientation. "It's been in the books right from the very beginning. There's a lot of gay characters, and I think it's very obvious in my writing that the enthusiasm I espouse for gay sex is not theoretical. You cannot conceal things in books, even if you want to. In real life, I've always had partners who were out, so that's never been an



issue." The new book, *My Secret*, is

he knew he would reap; he now has the Atlantic between him and Britain's glacially slow reviewers. These are his other fixation, and despite some "rather kindly" reviews, he still reads the big names, with their old-boyish literate and their prejudices against popular literature. "The feeling that there are six or so reviewers all reviewing each other's books in the Sunday papers is kind of nauseating. They've all slept with each other's wives or boyfriends or fathers, and it's just here..."

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...I've never had anything you could refer to as a beard, never went to an opening with a girl on my arm."

That snarl of Barker's novels isn't 1996's *Sacramento*, revolves around another gay lion. Why? Does our culture predispose even homosexuals to write about incestuousness? Or does it writhe about losing sleep?

"There's probably some of that," he concedes, "but I've written about gay boys when I wanted to. I've written about diverse sex a lot. I've written *SK&M* see. I've written a little heterosexual. I've written some lesbian sex now in *Calico*. *Sacramento* was very successful, but I don't particularly want to be identified as a gay novelist.

In any case, I don't think the soap-opera elements of the new book — a working-class woman marrying into a rich family — would work if it was a gay story. *Calico* is bisexual, of course, and the second book will see more of the other side of its nature..."

Dread the man who was the model for Calico, came with Barker on the trip from Beverly Hills. He was due to join us for lunch, but had been hit by a black cab, hard enough to throw him into the car. Even this somehow gets fed into the sex-talk. "When we rushed off to see him," says Barker, "I was aware of two completely separate things. One was that I was trying not to imagine what we were going to find — one I'd just knew had been lit — and the other was that his body was doing all kind of things. In a detached, witlessly kind of way, I realised my body had just gone fucking crazy. My hands were cold, my neck was hot, and I was trying to keep these images out of my head. I think detachment, true detachment, is kind of a form of insanity. It's good to

[illegible]